

*Life membership may be granted to a person as due **recognition for meritorious service in fostering the aims of the NZCF...***

Nomination of Elizabeth Crayford as a Life Member of the New Zealand Choral Federation

Elizabeth has been jointly nominated by the Wellington Region of NZCF and by the Governance Board.

Citation on behalf of the Wellington Region

Elizabeth arrived on the NZCF Wellington scene in 2006 and took over the running of The Big Sing in 2007 – what a year, with both the Regional and National Finale Festivals! Such was her efficiency that the minutes were sent as we walked out the door.

Elizabeth was Secretary of the Wellington Region from 2008 and took over as Chair in 2009. Our meetings were lively and held in her apartment. She made the May Workshop a super-friendly, welcoming event with participants coming back year after year – around 220 just 3 weeks ago. She negotiated with directors, soloists, venue and shared other tasks with the committee.

Long-term committee member Lynda Hunter says: “She is well-organised and a master delegator who almost always manages to hand over work to the right person to complete.”

And from TBS Murray Cameron:

“Elizabeth led the Finale to make it a more youth-focussed event. She is determined, persuasive, tireless, extraordinary, unique, a mover and shaker. She pays superb attention to detail and is an excellent planner. She struck the right balance between the needs of students, schools and NZCF in decision making.”

Comments from other committee members reiterate these attributes and thoroughly endorse this proposal. We’ll all miss the correspondence signed simply ... e

Elizabeth leaves big shoes to fill. I know this is a cliché but in the case of Elizabeth, they are many and varied, colourful, stylish and often unusual. They have featured on the big screen at TBS finales - forget to photograph or video them at your peril.

The Wellington Region is unanimous in joining with the New Zealand Choral Federation Board to propose that Elizabeth be awarded Life Membership.

- *Heather Armishaw, Membership Secretary of NZCF Wellington Region
May 2021*

Citation on behalf of NZCF National

There are some people you connect with immediately, understand implicitly, and agree with completely and wholeheartedly. For me, Elizabeth Crayford was not one of those.

From the moment she first popped into my email in 2007, I knew we were going to have fun. Her very first sentence, post-greeting, was: “We [the Wellington TBS committee] were wondering if we could pass the costs of the Town Hall on to the national body — and the funding to cover it”. To be fair, the reason was that they’d been told that their income for running Finale that year would mean they had to register for GST, and Elizabeth was not having a bar of that. “YIKES!!” she wrote... in caps, with two exclamation marks.

We proceeded to work closely together for the next 13 years. The Governance Board was pleased to offer her the new position of TBS National Co-ordinator in 2009 because of the fabulous job she and her team had just done on the Finale, despite having spent more on the large video screens than we thought was humanly possible; and TBS was always my shadow or actual portfolio during my stint on the Board. We found that we shared a robust, ever-so-slightly cynical sense of humour and a huge passion for the wonderful competition-cum-festival of which we were stewards.

Despite being the key overall manager of TBS, Elizabeth always had the interests of individual choir members and their directors very much at heart. Occasionally we disagreed on what those interests were, sometimes vehemently, but whoever won – usually her, we were by the next phone call (maybe just an hour later) immediately colleagues and friends again. I really admire that. And Elizabeth at the head of her troops at a Regional or Finale, decisively but calmly directing operations, was a joy to behold!

I got to know a little of Elizabeth’s back story over the years but she’s definitely not one to give her full autobiography in a single sitting; even after teasing out some details over time you still wouldn’t dare attempt a summary. But it was obvious from early on that, with all her high-level experience and wide range of interests, we were lucky to have her... and for so long. I already miss the daily emails – in tiny-font Verdana or Tahoma (none of that Calibri nonsense), and especially those that began with ‘Eek’ or ‘Yikes’. They always led to an interesting day.

Elizabeth is a force of nature. When you look, and think, the way she does at... the age she is, you obviously still have decades of productive life left. But she has given a generous and hugely valuable slice of that life to the Wellington region, to TBS, and to NZCF in general and her magnificent contribution will not be forgotten.

- *John Rosser, National Director of The Big Sing and inaugural Chair of the NZCF Board
May 2021*

The NZCF Governance Board and NZCF Wellington Regional Committee jointly nominate Elizabeth Crayford as a worthy nominee for Life Membership, having performed truly meritorious service in fostering the aims of the NZCF.