



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT – 1 January to 31 December 2018

This report includes comments on:

1. Our people
2. Membership
3. Finances
4. Funding and sponsorship
5. 12<sup>th</sup> World Symposium on Choral Music
6. The Big Sing and NZCF/SOUNZ awards
7. The Kids Sing
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### 1. OUR PEOPLE

2018 saw the sudden illness and passing of NZCF's Chief Executive of 10 years, Grant Hutchinson. Grant's contribution to the NZCF over his decade at the helm was immense, and in a tribute to Grant not long before his death, former NZCF Chair John Rosser wrote: *"Within the first few years of Grant's tenure, NZCF restored the confidence of Creative New Zealand, achieving Kahikitea client status and seeing its three-yearly bulk funding reinstated. A series of National Choral Clinics involving four overseas practitioners was organised, the Sing Aotearoa festival was revived and an Association of Choral Directors was formed. The Big Sing continued its rapid growth and NZCF's Rugby World Cup 2011 Anthems Project was a runaway success. From his first day, Grant strove to increase the membership of the Federation, searching always for ways to enhance and communicate its importance to conductors and singers. He presided over several upgrades of our website and continually advocated for a more professional look in everything done. On a more global front, Grant was one of the early movers in setting up an Asia-Pacific Council to promote choral music in our region. Moreover, his reports from International Federation For Choral Music events in Seoul and Macau were instrumental in encouraging us to apply for the 2020 World Symposium on Choral Music."*

The NZCF Board supported Grant's wife Luca in the organisation of his funeral at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell on October 24<sup>th</sup>, and a choir comprised of Viva Voce members (with whom Grant had sung) and other choral colleagues was conducted by John Rosser. The music at the funeral was all chosen by Grant and the service was captured on video to share with family overseas.

Special mention should be made of John Rosser, Juliet Dreaver, Michael Littlewood, Cathryn Wyllie and Olive Leddy, who were all enormously supportive of Grant during the period of his illness, and have extended their practical support to his wife Luca following his death.

**a) Patron:** Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM QSO DStJ

NZCF was delighted that the current Governor-General of New Zealand, Dame Patsy Reddy, agreed to take on the role of Patron of NZCF in 2018, following the passing in 2017 of our founder and inaugural Patron, Professor Peter Godfrey.

**b) Officers and staff**Governance Board

The New Zealand Choral Federation is especially grateful to the members of the Governance Board, who devote a significant amount of time and energy to the promotion of choral music in our country.

Juliet Dreaver	Chair (+ WSCM portfolio)
Michael Littlewood	Vice-Chair (Finance, WSCM)
Toby Gee	(Legal & Constitutional, Diversity & Reach)
Warwick Harvey	(Governance processes)
Shona McIntyre-Bull	(Regional liaison, The Kids Sing)
David Squire	(Association of Choral Directors, Diversity & Reach)
Rosemary Turnbull	(Regional liaison, SingFest)
Robert Wiremu	(The Big Sing, Diversity & Reach)

At the last AGM in April 2017, chair John Rosser and Simon Christie stepped down from the Board as their respective terms had come to an end. Thanks were conveyed at the AGM (and in last year's CE report) for their work, and in particular for the enormous contribution of John Rosser, founding Chair of the Governance Board, who was at the helm of the organisation for most of the Board's 11-year existence.

Juliet Dreaver took on the role of Chair in April 2018 and has worked tirelessly on general NZCF matters, as well as putting in a huge number of voluntary hours as chair of the WSCM2020 Admin Committee. Three new NZCF Board members were elected at the 2018 AGM: Toby Gee, Warwick Harvey and Robert Wiremu. Between them, they bring a great deal of experience and expertise to the table and are proactive and invaluable members of the Board.

Staff in 2018

Following the passing of Grant Hutchinson in October 2018, Christine Argyle was appointed Chief Executive and took up the role at the end of November. Christine is a past Governance Board member, having served as Vice-Chair then Chair for four of her six years on the Board.

Grant Hutchinson/Christine Argyle	Chief Executive
Cathryn Wyllie	Operations Manager
Steffan Sinclair	National Accountant

NZCF regional committees in 2018

The NZCF Chairs and committee members from the nine regions are crucial to the Federation delivering its busy programme and services. The Chairs of each region are also members of the NZCF National Advisory Committee.

*NZCF Auckland*

Penny Christiansen (Chair), Jessica Wells (Secretary), Rowena Janes-Post (Treasurer), Vanessa Kay, Eveline Harvey, David Cooke.

*NZCF Waikato-Bay of Plenty*

Jayne Tankersley (Chair & Secretary), Maria Colvin (Treasurer), Elizabeth Murray & Jeremy Whimster (Big Sing Coordinators), Sean Kelly, Hannah Bryant, Elizabeth Pilaar, Ann-Elise Miles, John Mullon.

*NZCF East Coast*

Alison Thomson (Chair), Pam Kesby (Secretary), Glenys Kempshall (Treasurer & The Big Sing Coordinator), Ngaire Shand (Kids Sing Coordinator), Georgina Cole, Barbara Morris, Kathleen Rowe, Joanne Stevens.

*NZCF Manawatu-Whanganui*

Roy Tankersley (Chair), Stanley Barnes (Treasurer), Louisa Craig, Guy Donaldson, Carrol Donoghue, Anne Marie Gray, Joanna Love (Secretary), Ian O'Brien, Pat Reu, Faye Roberts, Gillian White.

*NZCF Taranaki*

Colin Bright (Chair & Treasurer), Jenny Sorensen (Secretary), Judy Duggan (TBS Coordinator), Sue Lupton, Tim Steedman, Judy Tulloch, Juliet Woller, Sylvia Young.

*NZCF Wellington*

Elizabeth Crayford (Chair, acting Secretary), Heather Armishaw (Membership Secretary), Patrick Geddes, Lynda Hunter, Claire Macfarlane (Treasurer), Katie Macfarlane, Greg Maxted, John Shrapnell, Monika Smith.

*NZCF Canterbury-West Coast*

Rosemary Fisher (Chair), Caitlin Godfrey (Treasurer), Christine Brennan (Secretary), Helen Charlton (ACD rep), Georgina Rees-Stevenson (Web Admin), Lois Chick, Jeanette McGrath

*NZCF Otago*

Carole Randall (Chair), Rhys Thorn (Secretary), John Buchanan (Treasurer), Aimee Hazlett, Beth Scarlett, Rosemary Tarbotton.

*NZCF Southland*

Christine McLeod (Chair), Sarah Rae (Secretary), Jan Baird (Treasurer), Alan Menzies (Big Sing Coordinator), Michael Buick, Peter de Blois, Di Lenihan, Shona Thompson.

As ever, the organisation continues to operate at a high level through the tremendous goodwill of many hundreds of volunteers.

**2. MEMBERSHIP**

The number of Personal members of NZCF (rather than members of member-choirs) rose in 2018 from 394 in 2017 to 447 in 2018. The largest growth area in Personal membership was in ACD members (271 in 2018 up from 176 in 2017). This is an indication of the perceived value amongst our membership of the professional development offered by the Association of Choral Directors.

Member choir numbers are slightly down in 2018 (205, compared with 217 in 2017), but this is most likely due to human resources being stretched in the 2nd half year and a small number of unpaid member choirs not being followed up for their membership fees.

### 3. FINANCES

In 2018 NZCF returned a consolidated surplus of \$288,712, of which \$71,095 was from the NZCF National office and \$207,507 from Symposium 2020 Limited.

Reasons for the \$71K surplus for NZCF National are increased Big Sing Sponsorship from the Ministry of Youth Development (\$22k higher than budget), The Big Sing grant income (\$20K higher than budget), and lower than budgeted CE/Contractor payments (\$26K).

Details can be found in the accountant's report and audited accounts.

### 4. FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP

#### a) Creative New Zealand Kahikatea funding

NZCF received a grant of \$158,730 from our primary funder, Creative New Zealand (CNZ) in 2018 as part of our three-year Kahikatea recurrent funding.

Feedback on our 2018 report to CNZ included the following ratings in CNZ's four key areas: "very good" (Quality), "very good" (Alignment to CNZ's Strategy), "very good" (Financial Health) and "good" (Organisational Health).

Comments from CNZ included:

"Overall NZCF activities delivered to over 16,702 participants, well exceeding its targets of 14,106 for the year. An exceptional achievement".

"Strong revenue results are well above targets... Expenses were also managed well and below budget... the financial strength was improved this year."

"The organisation has demonstrated extreme resilience during the months without a CEO due to the sudden circumstances of Grant Hutchinson. With the appointment of Christine as CEO – the organisation is in expert and knowledgeable hands."

#### b) Ministry of Youth Development funding

Due to NZCF's strong performance in 2017, MYD increased its annual funding at the start of 2018 to \$60,000 per annum (up \$25,000 from 2017) and the contract was extended to the end of 2020.

MYD's survey of The Big Sing 2018 Finale participants revealed exceptionally high levels of satisfaction with regard to participation, sense of community, choral skill development and leadership. 96% percentage of survey respondents were 'very happy' or 'happy' with the programme or service; 96% percentage of survey respondents were 'very happy' or 'happy' with the people running the programme or service; and 99% percentage of survey respondents felt they had increased their capability and resilience. These strong survey results help ensure our funding from MYD remains secure.

#### c) Tour Time sponsorship

Tour Time continues as our TBS sponsor, making a contribution of \$10,000 to The Big Sing and \$3,000 for the Fine Tuning workshops in 2018. NZCF is most grateful to Brent Imrie and his team for their ongoing support.

#### d) Funders and supporters of The Big Sing Finale 2018

Creative New Zealand, Tour Time, Pub Charity, Venues Wellington, The Lion Foundation, The New Zealand Community Trust, The Southern Trust, Four Winds Foundation, SOUNZ Centre for New Zealand Music.

NZCF is very grateful to all the above funders for their support.

## 5. IFCM WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2020

Preparations for the World Symposium on Choral Music 2020 (WSM2020) in Auckland have continued apace over the past year with much achieved in key project areas.

### a) Milestones

- Theme : *People and the Land – He Tangata He Whenua* was announced and embraced by the international community
- Three days of meetings were held in Auckland in June with the joint NZ and IFCM Administrative and Artistic committees, traversing budget, marketing, logistics, information, technology, registration, trade expo, cultural feel, programme shape, venues, selection, concerts, workshops, special events, adjunct festivals – and much more
- Key international festivals #1 – Plans to visit China and Europe for marketing were further enhanced by an invitation for John Rosser’s Auckland chamber choir Viva Voce to attend CICF – the massive China International Choral Festival at the end of July 2018. Meetings were also held in Beijing with CAEG (China Arts & Entertainment Group), who have signalled their desire for a partnership between themselves, CICF and WSCM. CAEG owns the largest travel agency in China and intends to bring a number of choirs to NZ to participate in an adjunct festival alongside WSCM2020
- Key international festivals #2 - After CICF, John Rosser and Juliet Dreaver travelled to Estonia for the Europa Cantat festival in Tallinn. There we shared a booth with IFCM and continue to find ways to encourage sign-ups.
- The Call for Choirs and Presenters went out in May and resulted in submissions from 180 choirs and 182 presenters from 54 countries – substantially more than for any past Symposium

The artistic panel then had the difficult task of reviewing and assessing all 362 applications. We are exceptionally pleased with the 24 choirs selected, which come from 18 countries and 6 continents and cover a wide range of types/genres: mixed, women’s, men’s, youth, children’s; traditional, contemporary, theatrical, jazz, folk, indigenous. They are all world-class and collectively offer a very strong line-up for Auckland in 2020.

We communicated with all choir applicants in late December. From the 24 choirs who were invited, all have accepted.

- Surround Sounds. For the choirs who weren’t selected, we have offered an alternative opportunity to perform in New Zealand within a fringe programme called Surround Sounds. This will offer choirs one performance opportunity in Auckland during WSCM2020 and one performance outside Auckland (within one day’s return travel). A significant number of international choirs have indicated their interest in being part of Surround Sounds.

- Focus at the end of 2018 shifted to the business of a programme launch and opening of registrations in time for the ACDA convention in Kansas City (Feb/March 2019)

### b) Personnel

Artistic Director John Rosser and Relationships Manager (and NZCF Chair) Juliet Dreaver worked with volunteer and contract staff to manage progress through most of 2018. In October Kylie Sealy was appointed as Festival Manager to manage all elements of the design and build of the Symposium including managing staff and volunteers. Candice de Villiers was contracted short-term to coordinate applications, manage website resources and implement the marketing plan designed by The Audience Connection.

Lisa Davis (Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei) has replaced Tama Waipara on the Administrative committee, after he was appointed to the position of Director, Tairāwhiti Arts Festival necessitating a move to Gisborne.

### c) Symposium 2020 Ltd

A separate limited liability company, Symposium 2020 Ltd, has been established to run WSCM2020. This company is wholly owned by NZCF.

### d) Bell Gully

Law firm Bell Gully has agreed to work for Symposium 2020 on a *pro bono* basis.

### e) Funding

The ATEED sponsorship of \$260,000 was confirmed and contracted in early 2018

With a programme in place funding applications and sponsorship approaches will now proceed to address the budgeted shortfall. A key piece of work going into 2019 is the establishment of an advisory and fundraising body.

## 6. THE BIG SING (TBS) AND NZCF/SOUNZ AWARDS

The Big Sing continues to be a major highlight of the NZCF year across all regions, with a total of 8711 participants in the ten regional festivals held throughout the country in 2018, and 959 singers at the Finale. In addition, the Finale was live-streamed. with over 40,100 views of the NZCF YouTube channel and many more thousands on Facebook. The Finale Gala Concert was performed to a capacity house in Wellington's Michael Fowler Centre.

The 2018 regional adjudicators were Judy Bellingham, Mark Dorrell, Michael Stewart and John Rosser, and Christopher Marshall adjudicated the SOUNZ-NZCF Composition Competition. Twenty-four schools and 959 students competed in The Big Sing 2018 Finale, the adjudicators for which were David Childs, Karen Grylls, Peter Walls and Matthew Gifford (Auahi Kore adjudicator).

Heartfelt thanks go to Elizabeth Crayford (National TBS Coordinator), The Big Sing national committee (Director John Rosser, Peter Watts, Robert Wiremu, Grant Hutchinson and Elizabeth Crayford), social media assistant Anna Tarbotton, the ten regional coordinators (listed below) and the regional committees, and especially Wellington's Finale Host Committee, led by Elizabeth Crayford.

### The Big Sing Regional Coordinators

Auckland	Shirley Harvey
Waikato/BOP	Elizabeth Murray/Jeremy Whimster
East Coast	Glenys Kempshall
Taranaki	Juliet Woller
Manawatu/Whanganui	John Love
Wellington	Elizabeth Crayford
Nelson/Marlborough	Robin Randall
Canterbury/West Coast	Rosemary Fisher
Otago/South Canterbury	Carole Randall
Southland	Di Lenihan

## 7. THE KIDS SING

Six regions presented The Kids Sing festivals in 2018: Auckland, East Coast, Manawatu-Whanganui, Waikato-Bay of Plenty, Taranaki and Wellington. A total of 3,409 singers from 142 choirs took part, compared with 2,867 singers from 76 choirs in 2017. It is pleasing to see continued growth in this highly successful event.

### **The Kids Sing Coordinators 2018**

Auckland	Rhondda Garland
East Coast	Ngairé Shand
Manawatu/Whanganui	Roy Tankersley
Taranaki	Juliet Woller
Waikato/BOP	Jayne Tankersley
Wellington	Anya Nazaruk/Katie Macfarlane

### **8. SINGFEST**

Five regions presented SingFests in 2018, involving a total of 1,674 singers. The format varied from region to region, with some SingFests presenting individual choirs performing separate programmes for adjudication or commentary, while others brought singers together from multiple choirs to perform en masse. Wellington's May workshop saw an ad hoc choir performing works by Handel and Mozart conducted by Tecwyn Evans. The Christchurch SingFest consisted of multiple choirs singing in several locations around the CBD and involved 950 participants and audiences of at least 3,750.

### **9. THE ASSOCIATION OF CHORAL DIRECTORS (ACD)**

#### **a) Committee**

The 2018, Karen Grylls handed the role of Chair of ACD over to David Squire (GB ACD portfolio-holder and formerly Vice-Chair) but has remained on the committee in the key role of Artistic Director of the upcoming Choral Connect convention in 2019. Christchurch conductor Helen Charlton was co-opted onto the ACD committee in 2018, joining the existing committee members Sue Densem, Rosemary Russell, Peter Watts, Jayne Tankersley, Grant Hutchinson (CE) and Cathryn Wyllie (Operations Manager).

#### **b) Fine Tuning**

Another successful round of Fine Tuning workshops was held in May 2018 in Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Taranaki and Wellington. These professional development opportunities for choirs and musical directors taking part in The Big Sing were run by Christine Argyle, who worked with a total of 12 school choirs, spending 90 minutes working with each choir. 287 students participated, along with 12 conductors. Aspects worked on included vocal placement and projection, voice matching, stylistic interpretation, and communication of the text. NZCF is grateful to Tour Time for their sponsorship of these workshops.

#### **c) Giving Direction**

Giving direction workshops took place in 5 centres from April to September, with the following presenters.

Dunedin: Saturday 29 April - David Squire: 5 registrants  
 Invercargill: Sunday 5 May - David Squire: 6 registrants  
 Auckland: Saturday 30 June - Andrew Withington: 13 registrants  
 Nelson: Saturday 8 September - Sue Densem: 6 registrants  
 Christchurch: 22 September - Rowan Johnston & Sue Densem: 20 registrants

As can be seen from the numbers above, the smaller regions struggled to get a workable number of registrants, while the bigger centres had a good attendance.

#### **d) Primary Gestures**

Megan Flint led Primary Gestures workshops in 2018 in 5 centres:

Hastings, Saturday 5 May: 8 registrants  
 New Plymouth, Saturday 12 May: 6 registrants  
 Palmerston North, Saturday 26 May: 9 registrants  
 Hamilton, Saturday 16 June: 8 registrants  
 Wellington, Saturday 30 June: 6 registrants

### **10. DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **a) Social media**

Social media assistant Anna Tarbotton managed NZCF's three Facebook pages: NZCF, TBS and ACD, and did a fantastic job during The Big Sing Finale of getting the live sessions out to tens of thousands of viewers on Facebook. She also worked long hours uploading the session videos to the NZCF YouTube channel after the event, enabling a wider audience around the world to watch and listen to The Big Sing Finale. The TBS channel has had over 41,000 views since August 2018.

#### **b) eBreve**

NZCF continued with its communications almost entirely through digital means and this is working especially well for marketing and event registration. As at December 2018, there were approximately 2,150 subscribers to *eBreve*, which is sent out monthly using MailChimp.

Pauline Logger is working on a contract basis to format and deploy eBreve. She also provides support with updating the NZCF website.

#### **c) Online and other resources**

Our online resources include the website, with numerous downloadable articles, *eBreve*, *Ictus* and videos. In addition, there is advice on accompanists, advertising, APRA, NZCF's Constitution, copyright, some educational downloads, information on where to look for funding, our health and safety policy, insurance policy details, contact information for some organisations, and where to look for repertoire and rules around making recordings.

Our two publications "Hear our Voices" and "Sing what you see" are also still very popular.

### **11. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

Templates for choirs to use in their event planning have been placed on the Health & Safety section of the Resources page on the website.

The Governance Board is in the process of reviewing and updating NZCF's Health and Safety Policy and Plan. Once the review is completed, revised documentation will be passed on to NZCF event managers.

## 12. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Two NZCF members were recognised with Life Membership and four were awarded Distinguished Service Awards in 2018. They are as follows:

### Life Membership

**Grant Hutchinson** – for over 10 years’ outstanding service as Chief Executive of NZCF, working tirelessly to increase the membership and range of activities, and ensuring the Federation’s financial stability.

**John Rosser** – for 11 years’ exceptional service to the NZCF Board, most of those as Chair, and his leadership of large-scale NZCF events including Sing Aotearoa, the 2011 Rugby World Cup Choirs and the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> World Symposium on Choral Music.

### Distinguished Service Award

**Stanley Barnes** – for admirable service to NZCF Wellington and Manawatu/Whanganui regions as an office holder (variously Treasurer, Secretary and TBS Coordinator) continuously since 1995.

**Olive Leddy** - for 11 years of exceptional contribution as Chair of NZCF Auckland.

**John Leslie** – for more than 25 years’ outstanding service to the Otago choral community and NZCF Otago.

**Judy Tallon** – for excellent contribution to NZCF Waikato/BOP, in particular The Big Sing, for many years.

2018 was a challenging year for NZCF, with the sudden illness and sad passing of the Federation’s long-serving and dedicated CEO, Grant Hutchinson. However, the organisation has demonstrated strong resilience in trying circumstances, and the future for NZCF is bright, as it heads towards hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> World Symposium on Choral Music in 2020.



**Christine Argyle**

Chief Executive

**New Zealand Choral Federation**

*Te Kotahitanga Manu Reo o Aotearoa*