

**Welcome to the March issue of Qwire Notes!**

Qwire notes is a publication made available to both members and Friends of Qwire who subscribe to our website's news page. Feel free to distribute copies to your friends and family.

**February 2015**

Qwire had a later start this year, as we had more than 30 members attend the *Out and Loud Choral Festival* in Auckland, New Zealand over the weekend of 18-20 February. This was an opportunity for choirs from New Zealand and around the world to get together, sing, participate in workshops and generally have fun



The entire weekend was amazing and a lot of effort was put into the event by the organisers: Gay and Lesbian Singers Auckland (GALS) and choirs from Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra (us), Melbourne and Perth as well as Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Our pop up concerts around the city streets were received well by the Kiwis and our most famous piece was when we sang "Home" as we waited to cross a busy city intersection, perceived by the crowds as a flash mob!



A special thanks to Karen who carried and played the guitar as we walked the streets of Auckland!

Following a massed choir of some 250+ singers, we hit the streets of Auckland in their Pride Parade



Some attending members had a debrief when we returned so that we could provide some feedback to the organisers (at their request) about the festival and we also took some notes for ourselves, as we have expressed an interest to host the event in Canberra.

### **Change to Events**

Sadly, Ian Scott has resigned as Co-Events Manager and I take this opportunity to thank Ian for the work he has done in this role. Ian was also looking after our merchandise, which we take to events to sell to raise funds for Qwire. If anyone is interested in the role of merchandise officer, please let me know.

Yvonne continues as our Events Manager and has been working hard with our bookings team and new Creative Director, Greg Lissaman, preparing our concert budget. This will assist the Committee to establish the ticket selling price to our concert.

### **New Beginnings**

Due to the late start of Qwire, the Committee last year decided to change our format this year and dispense with a mid-year concert and to focus on delivering a show stopper show tunes extravaganza concert in October (before SpringOUT).

On 25 February, Qwire members were welcomed to our open rehearsal where Greg Lissaman provided an overview of our repertoire and the story that would be told through song. We had over 80 people attend and this included many new prospective members as well as some returning members. It was a great night with some exercises undertaken to embrace our theatrical side.



Creative Director – Greg Lissaman



Qwire now has 95 members/prospective members registered (noting that some of these are members from last year who may not be returning this year for various reasons). Over the coming weeks, we will have a better picture of the total number who will be with us this year, but it seems that the Altos remain the largest singing section.

### **Membership fees**

Despite not having a mid-year concert to raise revenue, we have maintained the membership fees the same as last year (\$115.00 / \$67.50). Invoice have been issued to members and I would remind members that payment must be received by the end of March. If you cannot reach this deadline, you are encouraged to speak with our Treasurer, David Worner.

### **International Transgender Day of Visibility – 31 March**

**TDOV** is a day to show your support for the trans community. It aims to bring attention to the accomplishments of trans people around the globe while fighting cissexism and transphobia by spreading knowledge of the trans community. Unlike Transgender Day of Remembrance, this is not a day for mourning: this is a day to be empowered and get the recognition they deserve!

I wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe Easter until next month,

Mikey Pettit  
Convenor