# Palmerston North Choral Society (Inc.)

Palmerston North New Zealand

**MINUTES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING 21 MARCH 2026 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Present**: Sue Brown SB (President), Alison Stewart AS, Myra Smith MS, John Chittenden JC.

**Apologies** Robert Van Bentum,

**Minutes of the previous meeting** *It was agreed that the minutes be confirme*d -SB.

**Matter arising from Minutes**

**Correspondence**

- **Inward** Choral Federation looking for a Regional representative.
- **Outward**

**Financial Report.** RV reported by email:

Registrations and Subscriptions

The Choir has 40 registered and participating singers for the year. All but 2 have paid their subscriptions.

Several past members have indicated they may join later in the year.

Finance Report

A financial summary for the year to date was tabled along with bank statements.

We are carrying a reasonable cash buffer so could consider investing some funds short term (6 months) if interest rates improve.

The financial report was received and building-use payment to St Peters approved. SB/JC

**Librarian's Report** Shaky places is booked.

**Publicity. SB**

Seasons Concert has been advertised in 'What's on' in the Manawatu (Standard) and 'Focus on the Manawatu' (NZME Free monthly publication.)

**Music Director's Report.**

Alison reported that rehearsals for our Seasons concert are progressing well. However she has a concern that home practice habits are inadequate, particularly in the bass section. It was agreed that Basses will start at 7.00 every Monday until further notice to upskill them.

**Concert Planning**

Sue presented a draft time-line leading to the concert

- John Love is keen to design the 'poster'.
- 13 April electronic copy and paper flyers to choir. Robert is co-ordinating. (3.5 weeks for publicity)
- 20 April Programmes printed and issued to choir. (Alison > Robert > Choir). Two weeks to sell.

Concert will be on Saturday 9 May 3pm at Pathways

Myra will organise the distribution of the posters to choir members.: 40xA5 and 100xA6 (letter-box drop size) Otherwise by email to members for onforwarding.

Murray Brown has agreed to be front-of-house – he will need an assistant. To avoid congestion in the payment area, it was suggested that we arrange separate queues for programme holders and walk-ins.

Alison is still working on soloists (with Guy Donaldson.)

**General Business**

<u>Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Staging</u>

Graeme Siddle and Robert Van Bentum met with representatives from the Cathedral. The staging has been built for the Cathedral and would be difficult to use if stored elsewhere. It can be used by other groups using the venue.

It was suggested that retaining or disposing of the staging should be a decision for the Cathedral. If the Cathedral wishes to repurpose the space for other uses and wishes to dispose of the staging the Choir would be respectful of that decision. We would still want to sing in the Cathedral in future.

The action taken by Graeme and Robert was supported and the Committee thanks them for attending to this matter on the Choir's behalf.

In the event the Cathedral wishes to dispose of the staging, it was suggested that we ask John Love, who built the staging, if would like it returned to him.

Social event

Averil is organising a social night during the rehearsal break on 30 March.

Choral Society website It was agreed that we pay someone to assist us with a revamp then say quarterly updates of content. It was last updated in 2023.

Musical Director
Alison has accepted a position as a Parish Priest in Waikouaiti Dunedin. and will be leaving after the Concert.

- A function for Alison will be arranged. Myra will initiate contact with long-serving choristers to create a composite reflection on Alison's time with the Choir.
- Sue (President) to be the MC for that function and limit speeches.
- It was agreed by consensus that Alison be asked to select a suitable retirement gift.
- Alison will advise the Choir on Monday.
- Choir to be advised that the programme is in place for this year. Committee will meet with the Patrons to ensure the programme continues for the remainder of the year. Roy Tankersley has agreed to direct Shaky Places.

The Meeting places on record the long and dedicated service that Alison has given to the Choral Society.

While very sorry to be losing Alison as our MD, the Committee congratulates Alison on her appointment and wishes her the best for the future.

**Next Meeting**: 9.30 am Sat 18 April 2026 at 4 Balcairn Place.

The meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.