



“The Power of Song” New Zealand Tour 19th Sept to 3rd October 2015.

Organising Committee, C/- Rod Noble
Chorus Mobile Phone: +61- (0) - 474974700
Email: peopleschorus@yahoo.com.au
Mail: PO Box 45, Hamilton, NSW, AUSTRALIA. 2303

Biography

The *Newcastle People's Chorus* was formed by delegates and friends from Newcastle Unions in 1988. It is one of 8 Union Choirs in Australia. These choirs were formed by labour movement activists concerned that collectivism, unionism and progressive ideas were waning under the influence of the conservative mass media and individualism. Members were moved by the need to create a more just, caring and sharing society.

The *Newcastle People's Chorus* upholds a spirit of betterment and helps to present the working class with a sense of history. It proudly keeps alive the oral tradition of worker's choirs, singing songs of working life, struggle and social justice.

From Sept 19 to Oct 3rd, the *Newcastle People's Chorus* will tour New Zealand, performing in Auckland (Sat 19 Sept); Palmerston North (Wed 23rd Sept); Wellington (Frid 25th Sept); Blackball (Wed 30th Sept); and Christchurch (Frid 2nd Oct). The tour is called “The Power of Song”, a reminder that we have a proud culture of songs.

Repertoire

28 Chorus singers will tour New Zealand, singing in 4 parts. This includes a number of guest singers from other Union choirs. The musical director is Gabrielle Thacker. Influences on the repertoire include the traditional plus Flying Pickets, Billy Bragg, Pete Seeger. The repertoire includes:

- Historic songs such as Paul Kings' “Eureka”, Graham Moore's “Tolpuddle”, & Leon Rosselson's “World Turned Upside Down”; traditional union songs like “Power in a Union”, “Joe Hill”, and “Solidarity”; contemporary songs such as Rita McNeil's “Working Man”, and Jez Lowe's “Coal Town Days”; songs of freedom & struggle such as “Ella's Song”; also political satire & protest Songs.

Performances

The *Newcastle People's Chorus* has given more than 400 performances from 1988 – 2015, and sings regularly at May Day marches, rallies, union functions, picket lines, folk festivals, clubs and pubs. In 2006 the People's Chorus toured the UK & Ireland. In October 2008 they toured New Zealand.

An audio visual *The People's Chorus* was released in 1990 and another “*Life on the Picket*”, in 1997. The first volume of songs “The People Sing Out” was released in 1995; a 2nd volume was released in 2004 and a 3rd volume released in 2010.

New Zealand Tour 2015 Dates

- **Auckland** - Sat 19th Sept. at 7pm Trades Hall, 147 Great North Road..
- **Palmerston Nth** - Wed 23rd Sept. at 7pm, Globe Theatre, 312 Main St.
- **Wellington** - Frid 25 Sept. at 5.30pm, St John's Conference Centre – cnr of Dixon & Willis streets.
- **Blackball** - Wed, 30th Sept. at 7pm, Workers Club.
- **Christchurch**–Frid.2nd Oct.7pm,KnoxHall, cnr BealeyAve & VictoriaSt.