



Newsletter

Organ Society of Queensland

www.organsociety.com.au

August 2017

President's Column

With great sadness I report the passing of Bill McKelvie, staunch supporter of the OSQ for decades, a long serving OSQ committee-man, engineer, organ enthusiast, organ builder (both pipes and electronic), family man and an all-round 'good-bloke'. There is more on Bill elsewhere in this newsletter and I am sure there will be more to follow that in other publications as well.

In close succession to Bill's passing came the loss of Bert Jarrott, another organ builder and a life long participant in matters 'organ'. Again, more elsewhere.

The AGM is imminent. We have the routine but necessary processes of being an Incorporated Society to perform, which I promise to deal with as efficiently as possible. If we have been doing our job to your satisfaction, it should be a quick and painless process followed by the more entertaining part of what is planned for the morning. However, it is your opportunity as members to be there and voice your opinions. Please do so as it is important as feedback on our performance as a committee, working on your behalf, and also as an endorsement for your newly elected committee.

See you at the AGM.

Peter Robinson
President OSQ

AGM coming up – 16 September

Experience an organ from the north German tradition at Nazareth Lutheran, but built by our own Simon Pierce, at the AGM 9.30am Saturday 16 September 2017. This will be played by Ross Windsor in a short recital after the AGM, followed by an open console, so bring your music.



Naturally at the AGM you will vote upon Office Bearers for the coming year, so Nominations will be received by our secretary, Denis Wayper, by email wayperd@bigpond.net.au or forms on the OSQ website www.organsociety.com.au, or phone 3263 9452.

This event is the Society's important get together for the year, so we would like all members to attend – and hear reports for the year, and new developments to be announced. Join other members for lunch at a nearby hotel (own cost).

We will thank the Nazareth Lutheran Church at [12 Hawthorne St Woolloongabba](#), for being able to use their magnificent organ and venue.



The Organ Society has a Facebook Page.
<https://www.facebook.com/organsocietyqld>

Organ Scholarship Scheme

We are very pleased to report that an Organ Scholarship has been awarded to a student at the Anglican Church Grammar School in Brisbane - "Churchie".

He is in year 11 and is learning organ within the school. The Society's Scholarship will pay half of his tuition fees for the next 12 months. We feel this is an important role which the Society can play in encouraging young people to develop skills on the King of Instruments.

If you wish to hear more about the Organ Scholarship Scheme please phone the Secretary Denis Wayper.

Review of Organist Fees

As you may recall, Steven Nisbet prepared a questionnaire on our attitudes to payment of organist's fees. From the replies he has summarised this non-confidential report for your consideration:

The survey results show that there is a general consensus that church organists deserve to be paid. There are many reasons for this, including (i) the time, effort and money put into their education, training and development, (ii) the time and effort that goes into their performance in the role as church organists, (iii) organists' high level of skills, and (iv) the positive contribution they make to the congregation's worship.

It is disappointing that some churches expect organists to play for nothing despite the organists' important role in worship, whereas ministers are not expected to preach for nothing. Further, most ministers (within denominations) are paid the same salary whether they are appointed to city, suburban or rural churches.

The Society of Organists (Victoria) has made a commendable move in publishing a Schedule of Fees to recommend to churches and organists. It is noted in the preamble to the Schedule (i) that most church leaders realise that if they want to have a decent standard of music in the church, they need to pay decent fees, and (ii) that it's fair to say that the more experienced and qualified the musician, the more he/she should be paid.

Similar comments can be made about the situation in Queensland. With declining numbers of church organists reported, it is important that a more professional attitude be taken by churches in the suburbs and rural areas as well as cities, to encourage and support high standards of music (including organ playing) which inspire congregations in their worship.

Finally, if talented music students are going to take up the organ as their primary instrument of study, there needs to be the prospect of organ-playing positions being available which pay a living wage to keep them motivated and inspired to reach their goals. The talents and efforts of such young organists will greatly benefit the whole church today and in the future.

The full report can be downloaded from the Society's website www.organsociety.com.au

Communication and Marketing



The committee is looking to have someone assist with a new Communication and Marketing role for the Society. We have plenty of ideas and avenues to follow, but we need a person with some skills to focus on that area to help the Society directly.

If you are willing to assist, or you have family members with these skills, please telephone the Secretary Denis Wayper 3263 9452 right away.

We have learned a lot by cooperating with the Theatre Organ Society earlier this year for the Thomas Heywood Masterpieces event, so we think we can do more....

Our Program for the rest of the year...

After enjoying the AGM on 16 September, please also enjoy:

Duelling Organs – Sunday 5 November
Duelling will be organists Steven Nisbet on the Albert Street Uniting organ, and Greg Hartay Szabo on the Melbourne Town Hall organ (yes it is really that organ's sound).

- And it will be supporting a good charitable cause – to be announced soon.

Organ Society Breakup – Sat 25 November
Not the society of course, just the end-of-year function.

Visit Queensland's (and possibly Australia's) newest organ at St Pauls Ipswich, by Simon Pierce; hear and play it as well !

See also the Calendar over the page....

Society News

The Visit to the Willis Brisbane City Hall

Organ in May was a highlight for many members (almost 20) and a sterling contingent from the Theatre Organ Society. Steven Nisbet was the featured demonstrator and Simon Pierce generously provided "backstage tours". Others to play were Denis Wayper and Dirk Kroese and we lost count of the number who were able to experience the range and power of this iconic instrument. The only question is, "When can we do it again?"

It is our sad duty to have to communicate the loss of two long time and well known members of the Society. Bill McKelvie and Bert Jarrott both died last week.



Bill McKelvie

Bert Jarrott

Bill was an active member and very efficient Secretary of the Society starting in the 90s when he returned to Brisbane from Lismore. Not only that, he was a driving force for the creation of the notable pipe organ at the Cleveland Uniting Church, as well as building his own electronic organ. Unfortunately he lost a five year battle with Parkinson's at this time, and we extend heartfelt condolences to his wife Lynda, and his extensive family. A Celebration of his life will be held at the Cleveland Uniting Church at 1.00pm on Wednesday 30 August.

The contribution of Bert Jarrott to the organ building world of South East Queensland and northern NSW is long and extensive, over a large part of his 86 years. A thanksgiving service for the life of Bert will be held at Christian Witness Ministries Fellowship, 2759 Logan Road, Eight Mile Plains, on Friday August 25 at 10.30am.

If you wish to send messages to either family please telephone Denis Wayper for contacts. Donations to respective charities can be made

Exciting Organ Concerts:

Sunday 10 September, 2 pm

Legends in Concert- Theatre Organ

TOSA at Kelvin Grove State College

Tuesday 31 October, 1.15pm

Willis Organ Series –City Hall

CHRISTOPHER WRENCH

Saturday 4 November, 2 pm

Nathan Avakian - USA

TOSA at Kelvin Grove State College

Tuesday 14 November, 12 noon

Willis Organ Series – City Hall

MARTIN SETCHELL (NZ)

Society Events:

Saturday 16 September 9.30am

2017 Annual General Meeting

Nazareth Lutheran Church

12 Hawthorne St Woolloongabba

Sunday 5 November, 2.30pm

Duelling Organs Concert

Albert Street Uniting Church City.

STEVEN NISBET

GREG HARTAY-SZABO

Saturday 25 November 10.00am

End-of-year Breakup at Ipswich

St Pauls Anglican Church Organ

OSQ offers an **Organ Scholarship** scheme for young organists.

See the website for details, or phone the Secretary for a paper copy.

Contact us www.organsociety.com.au

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Encourage another organ music lover to join the Society

Benefits of membership:

- Organ Australia journal 3 times per year
- Organ Rambles to magnificent instruments
- Advance notice of organ concerts

Ask for an enrolment form from the Treasurer, PO Box 6132, FAIRFIELD GARDENS 4103 or print out from www.organsociety.com.au