



Organ Society of Queensland Inc.

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President's Report to the Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Thursday 1st August, 2013

Chermside-Kedron Uniting Church, Brisbane

I am pleased to present my report to the 2013 OSQ Annual General Meeting covering the activities of the Society for the 2012-2013 year. I would like to thank the Chermside-Kedron Uniting Church authorities for allowing us to use the facilities here for our AGM and Denis Wayper's AV presentation - "The Organs and Cathedrals of Southern England".

The 2012-2013 year has been busy for the committee, as we made arrangements for a variety of events during that period. These have included celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of OSQ, organ concerts, organ rambles, educational events and social events.

On Sunday 5th August, we held our 60th Anniversary Lunch at the Botanical Gardens Restaurant, Toowong. Over forty members and guests enjoyed a delightful lunch, good company and a stimulating presentation by our guest speaker Oliver Brett (St Mary's RC Cathedral Sydney).

Our 2012 AGM was held on 1st September at St John's College Chapel, UQ, where we were able to admire the wonderful new pipe organ by Kenneth Tickell of Northampton. Thanks to Dr Howard Munro for his assistance in arranging the event.

On 6th October, Korean organist, Dong-Il Shin gave a great recital at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, as part of the international organ recital series. Thanks to Peter Robinson, Michael Fulcher and David Vann for their contributions towards the success of this event.

We continued the 'Never Too Young' theme with a concert on 19th October at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Woolloongabba. The concert was repeated at St John's Lutheran Church, Ipswich. Thanks to Simon Pierce and Michelle Jacques for their contributions towards these events.

The Society concluded the year with a ramble to Southport on 24th November, taking in the organs at St Hilda's School, St Peter's Anglican Church, and The Southport School, and ending with Fish & Chips on the Broadwater foreshore.

We started 2013 with a joint Organ Ramble along Ann Street with our TOSA friends. It included the organs at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Albert Street Uniting Church and Ann Street Presbyterian Church. Thanks to Greg Hartay-Szabo and Richard Feeney for their contributions to the ramble.

In March 2013, OSQ and RSCM conducted another joint event in the Organ Seminar Series entitled "What Stop is That?" at St Andrew's Uniting Church, presented by myself. Denis Wayper recorded this on video, and a 40 minute DVD of the presentation is available for purchase, along with a video of the first event in the series, "How the Pipe Organ Works".

On 13th April, Olivier Latry (Notre Dame, Paris) gave a concert with the Camerata of St John's at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane. He performed three concertos – Handel's Concerto Grosso in B flat, Haydn's Keyboard Concerto in C major, and Poulenc's Concerto in G minor for Organ, Timpani and Strings. He also played works by Pierre Cochereau and Guilman, and a brilliant improvisation on a theme from an audience member.

On 26th May, I gave a concert at St Andrew's Uniting Church to celebrate my 50 years as a church organist. The attendance was over 150 people, and they gave generously to the OSQ Scholarship Fund and St Andrew's Choral Scholarship Fund, both of which received about \$650.

Hungarian organist, Janos Palur, gave a organ workshop at Albert Street Uniting Church on Sunday June 16th (following his recital at St John's Cathedral the night before). Thanks to Greg Hartay-Szabo for arranging this event.

Last Friday afternoon (26th July), Simon Pierce and I conducted a joint RSCM-OSQ "Pipes & Pizza" event at the Anglican Church Grammar School. Ten boys from Year 2 to 7 attended and enjoyed the presentation. Thanks to Melody Cargeeg for the invitation and her organisation of the event. The success of this event leads us to think of offering similar events to other schools which have an organ on campus.

Last Sunday (28th July), OSQ and St Paul's Presbyterian Church combined to arrange a Grand Organ Concert to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the congregation, and the 130th anniversary of the first organ recital in Brisbane. Eight organists performed – Greg Hartay-Szabo, Peter Robinson, Denis Wayper, Steven Nisbet, plus youngsters Tim Williams, Vanessa Mihov, Diana Kolarska, and Nathan Hui. It drew an audience of 123 appreciative people. Thanks to Christine Campbell for her organisation of the event.

The success of concerts in specific churches leads us to think of doing further concerts in local churches, making use of local celebrations and events.

In recent months, the Committee has been making plans for the future. So the following events are coming up later this year.

- "Baroque and Beyond at Beenleigh" – a recital by Christopher Wrench celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the installation of the Smenge organ at Bethesda Lutheran Church, City Road, Beenleigh on Sat 7th September at 2.30pm
- "Keys on Keys" – a recital by John Keys (St Mary's Nottingham) at St Andrew's Uniting Church on Wed 30th October at 7.30pm
- Arrangements are being made for another joint event with RSCM in the Organ Seminar Series, this time on "How to get the most from your electronic organ" in November. Details of venue and time will be published when available.
- Members of the committee have been in contact with our OMSS (Sydney) colleagues with a view to holding a combined organ ramble to during the June Queen's Birthday long weekend 2014, possibly to the area west of the Blue Mountains, viz., Mt Victoria, Mudgee, Bathurst and Lithgow.

There are four more organ recitals in the Twilight International Organ Series at St John's Cathedral this year. I encourage members to support these recitals, as detailed below. Congratulations to Michael Fulcher for arranging this excellent series.

August	Sat 10 th at 6pm	Jennifer Chou, Aust, Paris, H Kong, With Brisbane Chamber choir
September	Sat 28 th at 6pm	Jonathon Dimmock, San Francisco Symphony,
October	Sat 19 th at 6pm	Thomas Wilson, NZ, UK - Director of Music, St Mary's, Sydney,
November	Sat 9 th at 6pm	Christopher Wrench

The next OHTA (Organ Historical Trust of Australia) Conference will be held in Adelaide and the Barossa Valley from Sunday 30th September to Saturday 5th October. Again, I encourage members to attend this conference. You will find it musically worthwhile, enlightening, and enjoyable. Go to the OHTA website (www.ohta.org.au) for more details and the registration form.

Good progress has been made by Simon Pierce on the Brisbane City Hall installation of the Willis organ. As OSQ President, I have been invited to a meeting with BCC officers about arranging concerts for when the organ is fully operational again. I will keep you informed of these developments.

I would like to encourage members to continue to donate to the Society's Organ Scholarship Fund. Organ Scholarships have been awarded to two talented young organists, Vanessa Mihov and Tim Williams, to assist them continue with organ studies, and attend summer organ courses. If any other members would like to contribute to the fund, forward your donation to our treasurer or use your membership renewal form. Details of the Scholarship scheme are available on the OSQ website.

Finally I wish to thank my colleagues on the committee for their hard work over the past 12 months. As you would appreciate, the Society's activities and programs are the result of the efforts of a group of hard-working and dedicated committee members. I therefore wish to thank Vice-President Peter Robinson, Secretary Denis Wayper, Treasurer Jenny Summerson, and committee members Bob Guthrie, David Cahill and Garry Smith for their efforts. Thanks also to David Vann for his work as Queensland editor for our national journal *Organ Australia*, to Tony Winter for his work as webmaster, and to our regional representatives Phillip Gearing in Toowoomba, Roger Marks in Rockhampton, Michael Fellows in Townsville, and David Cahill in Warwick for flying the OSQ flag in their regions.

Steven Nisbet (President)