



Organ Society of Queensland

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting

10:00am Saturday 25th September 2021
St. Peter's Lutheran College, Indooroopilly.

The committee, since that last AGM, has consisted of:

Peter Robinson – President
Ross Windsor – Vice President
Denis Wayper – Secretary
Jenny Summerson – Treasurer
Steven Nisbet – Member
Tom Campbell – Member
Peter Hyde – Assistant Secretary

I thank everyone serving on the committee for their contribution and dedication.

The 1st June 2018 marked a significant change in the Organ Society of Queensland's affairs with the passing of one of our longest standing members, Elsie Anders. The true extent of this change is only now becoming apparent. Elsie left a sizeable bequest to the OSQ which, after the usual and lengthy legal processes were completed, altered our financial standing radically. The OSQ now has funds that probably exceed those of any other society of our type in the country and also a lot in the rest of the world!

Your committee has moved cautiously with the handling of these funds and has spent a lot of effort in reacting to some of the changes required due to regulations governing incorporated societies with a net worth exceeding various thresholds. These have forced us into a regime of increased governance, which is not necessarily bad, but certainly involves extra administration.

As a result, we have reviewed the OSQ's standing and practices to ensure compliance with the regulations. Surprisingly to some, we as a 'not for profit' incorporated society are allowed to invest money and make a profit, however, it must be ploughed back to the benefit of the members and the community at large in accordance with our constitution. The fortunate effect of this is that we have funds available to pursue things not previously possible.

The first and most immediate benefit for members is that we are able to maintain membership fees without increase for the present. It also has allowed us to update the website which has been beneficial in expanding our presence in the community and brought with this a small but steady stream of new members. Along with this we have been able to expand our scholarship program and currently have four scholars approved to receive benefit from us in the form of assistance with tuition fees.

How are we managing these funds? Firstly, we have sought and secured professional investment advice and the funds are currently invested in accordance with that advice. The initial investment occurred in September last year and to the end of our financial year (30th June 21) had attracted a return of over 20%. This is an extraordinary return for our conservative portfolio. Unfortunately, we have been advised not to expect this high rate of return to continue! Our advisors are forecasting a return of closer to 6% for the next year. As we get more experience with this aspect a steady and regular income should be realised that can be put towards the OSQ's activities and help keep subscription fees as low as possible whilst pursuing the OSQ's aims.

Next year also marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the OSQ and we will be directing some funds towards a suitable celebration. We are still finalizing the format and venue for this but will hopefully have things sufficiently sorted to advise you of the plans in the next couple of months.

We have continued seeking deductible gift recipient status, but as noted at last year's AGM it's a long-winded process. We are closer but also have to alter the OSQ's constitution to proceed further. This in itself involves a process that is quite lengthy however, we are getting closer to what we need to put to you at a future general

meeting, when everything we need to do has been identified. Tom Campbell, Tony Tabrett and Denis Wayper in particular have been carrying out this process and I wish to record my gratitude to them for this work.

There are to be two other significant changes occurring today. The first is that Jenny Summerson has decided to step down as Treasurer, a position she has held since 1998. Thank you, Jenny, for your sterling efforts over the last 23 years. I am however, pleased to say that Jenny has elected to stay on the committee for the time being, and will, at least in the short term, maintain the membership list for us.

Also, Denis has decided, after only a mere 18 years, that he will relinquish his role as secretary. Denis has performed this role magnificently for us and I also wish to record my sincere thanks for his tireless efforts. Denis also wishes to step down from the committee today and for his efforts as a committee member of many years I also acknowledge his contribution. Denis has agreed to continue to maintain our website and maybe even pen the odd newsletter.

Despite covid 19, we have managed to hold some events with a visit to three city organs in Brisbane City area early in the year, a hymn playing workshop, and a video presentation on the English Organ. However, we also had to cancel quite a few events which although unavoidable was disappointing. We are cautiously planning a future program, but in this unpredictable covid situation, I suspect it will be some time before we can plan a full program with confidence. Having said that, the feedback we received from the English Organ presentation was very positive and it generated much interest and many requests for more. This we will organize and it might even take the form of an electronic presentation which will mean it can go ahead regardless of covid. We are working to see if this can be done and will let you know.

In 2019 we had “A Joyful Noise” concert in city hall that was produced jointly by the OSQ, Brisbane City Council, 4MBS and the Brisbane Chorale. I am pleased to say we will be having our second “Joyful Noise” concert on 14th November 2021 at City Hall. Tickets will be on sale soon and I advise you to book your tickets early. The previous concert was a sellout and I expect this year’s to be the same.

Our membership stands increased by two from last year. I would specifically like to welcome new members since our last AGM. New members for the financial year are:

Leo Adeney (joined in Aug 2020 - welcomed at last years AGM?)

Godfrey Graham

Jill Henderson

Susanne Nelles

Grace Porter

Chris Trikalis.

In addition we have a further 3 new members who joined in what will be the reporting period for the next AGM. They are:

Charmaine Ward

Luke Butler, and

Domonic Perissonotto.

We welcome you all to our ranks.

Despite the challenges, the OSQ has had a successful year. Our membership is growing, albeit slowly, our finances have never been healthier and we have been successful in making headway in the more active encouragement of the art of playing and appreciating the music made on the king of instruments.

Finally, we are here at St Peter’s Lutheran College today to hear and play their recently enlarged organ. I thank St. Peter’s for their co-operation in allowing this to happen and providing the venue for our AGM today. Additionally, I must thank Phillip Gearing for agreeing to demonstrate the organ to us before we have an open console session. Thank you, Phillip, for your support today and I look forward to your demonstration a little later.

Peter Robinson

President