



Organ Society of Queensland

President's Report to the

Annual General Meeting

10:00am Saturday 1st November, 2019

St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Creek St, Brisbane.

The committee since that last AGM, comprised of:

Peter Robinson – President

Ross Windsor – Vice President

Denis Wayper – Secretary

Jenny Summerson – Treasurer

Steven Nisbet – Member

Amanda Hume – Member

Tom Campbell - Member

I am happy to report another active and successful year for the OSQ. Our finances are in very sound shape, our membership base is steady, and our activities continue with two organ scholarships in place, a new website under development, and successful visits to the organs of Queensland undertaken. Having said that there are also areas that need attention and that are taking considerable administrative time of your committee.

The first of these is our journal, Organ Australia. This magazine is produced by the Society of Organists, Victoria and we purchase it for distribution to our members. It is fair to say that SOV has been through unsteady times over the last year, so much so that it was in danger of being wound up at one stage. Fortunately this has been averted and the Victorian Society continues, but it is reshaping itself to suit the times and plot its future. As a consequence, their society may well change and with it the Organ Australia magazine may also change or possibly even disappear. We are in liaison with the Victorians but can state that, for the immediate future, we will continue to receive the magazine and have it distributed to our members. However, changes over which we have little or no say may well occur and we may well have to re-assess.

Our scholarship program is going well, but we would like to increase our activity. The scholarship fund is quite healthy and to get some more younger people learning the art of good organ playing would be satisfying. Your committee is open to ideas any of you might have in this regard. However, it is also sadly true to say that in our efforts to make progress in this regard, we have offered scholarships to one school and had the idea rejected! We will keep trying with a view to fostering those who are likely to maintain a long term interest.

One of the reasons we are so financially well off, is because of a generous bequest. That we have not been able to do anything of substance with this money to date is due to an oversight dating back nearly 20 years, which has caused the OSQ to lose its Incorporated status. This fact was not known to anyone on the committee until earlier this year. Hence the earlier motion calling on you to approve a new constitution to accompany our application to become an incorporated society again. I will not repeat all the rationale behind its necessity, but it is important that we receive this status before investing and spending this bequeath. So in the meantime, it is safely invested in a bank fixed deposit, albeit with disappointing interest rates. Once incorporated, we can take a more fruitful approach and start using these funds.

The constitution was in need of updating anyway so at least that riveting task has been completed and we will have a constitution that is compliant with current requirements. However, this has taken quite a bit of behind-the-scenes work. For his assistance, I would like to officially thank Neil Summerson specifically for his help, efforts and advice in guiding us through this bureaucratic maze.

I have also mentioned that we are in the process of updateing the OSQ's website. This has also taken quite a bit of effort to date and is still very much work in progress. Please visit it and if you have ideas about what you would like to see on it, please send an email and it will certainly be considered. I envisage this will be a project that will develop over time and make steady progress into a useful and easy to use website.

We have also continued our charitable contributions with members Steven Nisbet and Greg Hartay-Szabo who put on a "Duelling Organs" concert in aid of drought relief in November of last year. I am pleased to say that it rained two days before the concert! They were also successful in raising funds to assist with the drought relief.

We had a successful collaboration with 4MBS in mounting an "Organs on Ann St. event in May. With over 100 attending it was a wonderful success and commented on favourably by the general public that attended. Four gifted organists demonstrated four very different organs to the public of Brisbane in an event that was musical and different.

As always, there are many who contribute to the success of the OSQ. I wish to thank my committee for their support and tireless efforts in gettting things done. I thank David Vann for his continued support of the OSQ in general and his literary efforts as our liaison with Organ Australia. I thank our regional representatives for their continued interest, support and help when needed. Finally I thank St. Andrew's who have allowed us to use their venue for our meeting.



Peter Robinson

President

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