



Organ Society of Queensland Inc.

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting

9:00am Saturday 17th September 2016
St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane.

The committee that has served you since the last AGM consists of:

Peter Robinson – President
Ross Windsor – Vice President
Denis Wayper – Secretary
Jenny Summerson – Treasurer
Steven Nisbet – Member
Amanda Hume – Member
Gary Smith – Member

Last year I announced that Jenny wanted to step down but would continue until we found a replacement. To date a replacement has not been found so I urge anyone who has a little spare time to consider taking on this important, but not excessively onerous task. Please consider helping. The society needs you! Jenny has also provided, on numerous occasions, the venue for our committee meetings. So I extend a special thank you to Jenny for her extended service as well as the Summerson's hospitality.

To the remainder of the committee, I also extend my thanks for your time, interest and dedication.

As the OSQ president, I continue to serve on the Lord Mayor's Organ Advisory Committee. The organ 'expertise' part of this committee is continuing to influence City Hall in matters relating to the organ and is constantly trying to get the City Hall Organ showcased and properly maintained. I believe we are incrementally making progress and I think the organ's management is better for our input. However, there is much we would still like to achieve.

I also believe we have got to the point where a Society visit to City Hall for us to hear and play the instrument is now an achievable option and I hope to arrange this early next year.

The OSQ co-produced with the BCC a recital by the American Organist, Hector Olivera, last February. When this became a possibility, your committee put together a package that was appealing to the City Council and allowed it to go ahead. Effectively, the OSQ paid the artist. This was achieved by arranging sponsorship and occurred without the use of any OSQ funds. That it went ahead, I believe was an important precedent as it was the first fully-fledged concert length organ event since the opening recitals that the council had backed. That it was a success means that we might slowly start to get a few more. We proved, yet again, that the organ can pay its own way!

In no small way was the success of this City Hall concert due to the support and cooperation of our good friends at TOSA (Qld). I wish to publicly acknowledge the effort they went to in supporting us in mounting this concert and to convey our sincere appreciation of their help. I hope this co-operative approach continues between the two organisations well into the future as it can only be of mutual benefit.

The society also augmented the fees of the four organists who performed in the Baroque festival. This brought their fee up to what was nearer to a normal artist fee for their work. I believe this money to have been well spent and certainly has not harmed our relationships with Brisbane's professional organists.

The Scholarship fund is growing. Those who feel the need to contribute to it today, there is a receptacle available for your donations here. On the outgoing side, we sponsored Diana Korlaska to attend the

Sydney Organ Academy last January. Diana would not have been able to attend had we not done so and she came back motivated and ready to continue her organ studies with renewed vigour.

Two weeks ago, a small contingent visited Warwick where we were very cordially hosted by St Andrew's Uniting Church whilst we inspected and played their instrument and that of St. Mark's Anglican Church. Later in the afternoon, I, Denis Wayper and Ross Windsor put on a free concert. There was a good and appreciative audience who enjoyed the concert and particularly the fact that we had made the effort to bring something to the country for them to enjoy. Certainly win/win! I sincerely hope we can do this again, not just in Warwick but also in other regional centres. Of unexpected benefit, the audience donated some \$360 to our scholarship account, so it turned out to be a pleasant and successful visit from every angle.

I would also like to thank David Vann who remains active as our liaison with Organ Australia, writes articles and reviews for that magazine and in general aids the society. David, through Vanguard Blinds, continues to provide generous sponsorship of artist's fees etc. Thank you David and Vanguard Blinds.

Lastly I would like to thank St. Stephen's Cathedral for the use of their facilities today and particularly James Goldrick who is about to entertain us in the Cathedral.



Peter Robinson

President

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