



# Organ Society of Queensland Inc.

## President's Report

### Annual General Meeting

9:00am Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Basil Jones Auditorium, Queensland Conservatorium  
Griffith University, Southbank

Since being elected as your President last year, your committee and I have been busy. The year has been unusual but the direction in which we have moved, as dictated by circumstances, has proven different from the past. The result is that from the general membership perspective, we might have appeared to be doing less. I wish to assure you all that this is not the case.

I wish to comment on the Treasurer's report. Our single most significant cost is the Organ Australia magazine. This has incrementally risen in cost year by year, whilst we have maintained our subscriptions constant for the last four years. Until this year, our finances have not suffered as a result. However, over the last year, a steady, but slow, decline in the cash-at-hand has been noted. There are two main reasons. Firstly the cost of Organ Australia magazine now represents a very high percentage of our subscriptions. The second reason is that for the last two years, more and more of our membership is failing to pay their subscriptions. To date we have maintained a tolerant approach to this, and I hope we can continue to do so, but this has an obvious effect on our finances in that our main cost increases and our revenue decreases. Therefore it is our duty, in order to maintain the society's finances in a healthy state to propose an increase in subscriptions. This proposal is on the agenda following the election of office bearers.

Your committee has taken action on members who have not paid their subscriptions. This has been a 'mixed blessing' in that we have had a number of resignations, but also a pleasing number of apologies – with payment.

I now wish to acknowledge the service of Jenny Summerson and Bob Guthrie on the committee. Both have notified they will stand down at the AGM and therefore need to be replaced.

Jenny has been our Treasurer for around 12 years. She has done more than her bit. Thank-you Jenny.

Bob has been on the committee for the last few years and provided his house as a meeting venue, on many occasions, and his sage advice on matters in general. He and Pauline have other commitments that make it now impractical for him to continue on the committee. I thank you Bob too.

The OSQ has not 'put on' any recitals in the last year. However, we contributed \$500 to St. John's Cathedral as a donation toward their TIOS Recital series. This donation was a direct result of the St. John's TIOS Recital series being short of funds.

Last year I alluded to my intention to guide the OSQ's support of young organists. To this end, we have sponsored a young organist to attend the "Sydney Organ Academy" which commences in a few days. The committee (of the OSQ) is still actively investigating how we can advance this aim. The best thing you, the membership can do is to contribute to the fund. It doesn't have to be a large donation; everything helps.

I also stated that I wanted to improve the OSQ's reach into the rest of Queensland. I have made quite a lot of enquiries; these include Warwick, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville and Pierce Pipe Organs. All have produced leads, but nothing that we can work with yet. Work is ongoing.

Denis Wayper, our long serving secretary, has co-ordinated our new website. It has taken a lot of work with a lot of help. Thank-you Denis and your 'helpers'.

Lastly: City Hall.

As reported last year, the OSQ made a submission as to how we thought the City Hall 'Willis' should be managed. I can report that most of our recommendations were adopted. There now exists an organ advisory committee that meets every two to three months to advise the BCC on the City hall Organ; its use, its maintenance, etc. I, as President of the OSQ, was invited to join and, have joined this committee. The committee is in its early days and there is much to be done, but already we have had a beneficial influence even if it is just a start. There has been a much work in achieving this position and its importance, for many reasons, should not be under-estimated. I will keep the committee and membership informed of its progress.

Earlier this year I was approached by Hector Olivera, from the USA, about performing an organ concert in City Hall early next year. I am pleased to announce that private sponsorship has been found that will fund the artist's fee and accommodation and airfares, from Sydney, for Hector and his wife have been donated. As a result and in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council, this concert will take place on February the 18<sup>th</sup>. Timing is yet to be confirmed but I hope to have that finalised soon. Please mark this date in your diaries for what should be a very good concert.

Finally, it pleases me greatly that our Patron, Professor Peter Roennfeldt, will shortly give a presentation to us on his recently released book, Madame Mallalieu. This I am sure you will find interesting for, not only is it a fascinating story, Madame Mallalieu was a highly accomplished performer on both piano and organ, and a strong force for good in the early Colonial days. This engagement was not just in musical matters but also stretched to political influence particularly when it came to women's rights and affairs. Truly a strong

Lady who many would say was well ahead of her time. I'll leave it to Peter to expand on this fascinating story. I am pleased to have this interaction with our Patron and look forward to his presentation and hope that we can maintain an active relationship with him in the future.

In support of Peter's talk, Christopher Wrench is also going to perform some of the music that Madame Mallalieu performed. Some of this music, as far as we can ascertain, has only been aired publicly on a few occasions. Other pieces you may be more familiar with. Christopher it is always a pleasure to hear you perform and thank you for donating your time and skill, and for your part in bringing this story to life.

In conclusion, and despite my observations on finances earlier, the OSQ remains in sound financial health and remains active and serving the organ community in accordance with our constitution.



Peter Robinson  
President