



**The Organ Music Society of Sydney Inc.**  
Incorporating the American Guild of Organists (Sydney Chapter)

ABN 18 754 002 095

AnnRpt2017

# ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017

## 1. OFFICE BEARERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at St Jude's Anglican Church, 106 Avoca Street, Randwick, the nine members present elected the following office bearers:

President	Dr Gregory Cunningham
Vice Presidents	Mrs Godelieve Ghavalas and Mr Peter Jewkes
Honorary Treasurer	Mrs Kerrie Keene
Honorary Secretary	Mr Geoff Lloyd

The following members were elected to the Committee:

Messrs Gareth Beard, Andrew Davidson, Robert Fox, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer.

It is accepted practice that the elected president also assumes the office of Dean of the Sydney Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the elected secretary also assumes the office of Secretary of the Sydney Chapter of the American Guild of Organists as well as the Public Officer under the Associations Incorporation Act.

## 2. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The OMSS aims to advance the love of the organ and its Committee continued to advance this objective through into 2017. This year, the Society has also recognised the contribution to the organ and the musical life of Sydney of one of its past Deputy Presidents, Dr Neil Cameron, in bestowing life membership of the OMSS on him.

I wish to acknowledge each member of the OMSS Committee, who has made a significant contribution in supporting the activities of the Society. Our two Deputy Presidents have supported me in a range of areas, particularly Godelieve Ghavalas, who has also chaired the Education Subcommittee. This subcommittee has instigated a number of initiatives aimed particularly at young organists. She is ably supported by Robert Fox. Our Editor of the Sydney Organ Journal, Peter Meyer, maintains a very high quality publication which continues to educate, inform and entertain. Garry Hoyle, Membership Secretary, oversees the OMSS and AGO memberships – an important international alliance between two organ music organisations. In early November of this year (2017), the AGO Sydney Chapter hosted a reception at Shore School for Michael Barone's visiting American organists' group on the Pipedreams Historic Organs of Australia tour. These opportunities strengthen international music ties in many ways. Kerrie Keene, OMSS Treasurer, supports the Society in a very important and able pecuniary way.

In the Sydney Organ Competition 2016 (Labour Day Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October) there were six Juniors, five Intermediate and three Open section contestants with the adjudicators being Christopher Wrench and Sarah Kim respectively with both adjudicating at the Open section. This was a very successful day with the venues being St Aloysius' College, Shore School and Sydney Conservatorium.

Moving forward into this year, eleven Juniors and six Intermediate contestants participated in the Sydney Organ Competition 2017. This event was held on Labour Day, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Tom Bell from the United Kingdom was the adjudicator.

I acknowledge the interest and active contribution of the Friends of the Sydney Town Hall, the Sheppard and Vern-Barnett families, Ellen Dyer, Betty Roberts and The Federated Music Clubs of Australia NSW Council, in supporting the Sydney Organ Competition prizes. My thanks to the organ Education Subcommittee led by Godelieve Ghavalas and Society Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, for their outstanding organisation of and contribution to this important annual OMSS event.

The Sydney Organ Festival followed the Sydney Organ Competition 2017. The principal tutor was Tom Bell and the event consisted of a number of varied events including recitals, masterclasses and visits to the Sydney Town Hall, St Andrew's and St Mary's Cathedrals' organs. The range of activities proved to be very popular with participants. Again, the Education Subcommittee ensured that the seamless planning and operation of this event made it a memorable occasion for all involved.

Organ concerts in Sydney and further afield are regularly advertised to encourage our members to attend. We congratulate the organisers of these concerts at the Town Hall, Sydney University, cathedrals and churches. Thank you to Garry Hoyle for the regular OMSS e-letters and to Gareth Baard (social media) that keep our members informed.

Organ Rambles, a crucial feature of the Society, continued in 2016-17. The Easter Monday Ramble, "Fame v Anonymity – Hornsby Heights via Galston to Arcadia" showcased the organs of the Upper North Shore, while the Queen's Birthday Weekend Southern Border Ramble, organised by committee member, Andrew Davidson, attracted a good response. Organs were visited in Albury, Wangaratta and Walla Walla.

The Society also extends its thanks to City Organist, Robert Ampt, for his continued support of young organists in making available the Sydney Town Hall Organ for the Young Organists' Days each December and the Sydney Organ Festival in October 2017. Equally, Amy Johansen's exposure of the University of Sydney's Great Hall organ to young people is gratefully recognised.

Finally, I wish to add my sincere thanks to the Committee particularly our indefatigable Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, for their contribution to the work of the Society and to all our members for supporting our activities.

### **3. LIFE MEMBERS**

Audrey Cummins passed away in March. Her funeral was held at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Manly where she had been organist for many years. Keith asboe spoke at that service.

The Society has four Life Members, viz.

Keith Asboe, Peter Kneeshaw, Howard Pollard and Ron Sharp,  
and a fifth as foreshadowed in the President's Comments, Dr Neil Cameron, is to be presented with a certificate at the 2017 AGM.

#### 4. MEMBERSHIP

<b>Year Ended</b>	<b>31/8/15</b>	<b>31/8/16</b>	<b>31/8/17</b>
<b>Ordinary Members</b>	202	207	189
<b>Pensioners/Seniors</b>	79	78	87
<b>Students</b>	7	9	9
<b>Journal Subscribers</b>	37	-	-
<b>Institutional Subscribers</b>		7	7
<b>O/S Journal Subscribers/Members</b>	14	14	13
<b>Total Members and Subscribers</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Complimentary Journals</b>	26	16	17
<b>Overseas Complimentary</b>	-	9	9
<b>Advertisers</b>			3
<b>Total Mailed Out</b>	-	339	334

#### 5. SYDNEY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

We have continued to cope with the altered AGO system of membership which necessitated some changes to our membership procedures.

So, again, it is mentioned that we are unable to accept late subscription renewals for AGO membership. This does leave the option for the member to pursue own arrangements (but more expensive).

One advantage to being a member of the Sydney Chapter of the AGO is receipt of the monthly magazine *The American Organist*, which is full of information on the organ scene in the US and the world.

#### 6. FINANCIAL

You are invited to see the Financial Statements and Notes appended hereto, together with the Independent Audit Report.

With a change of banks during the 2015-16 year there was some adjusting to be made to our procedures: this has now levelled-out and things are running even more smoothly. We must acknowledge the great effort exercised by our treasurer, Kerrie Keene, and also the assistance rendered by Garry Hoyle, our Membership Secretary.

Our thanks is extended to David Wheatley who has most generously audited the Society's accounting documents again this year.

#### 7. THE SYDNEY ORGAN JOURNAL

Fifty-one OMSS members contributed to the four scheduled numbers of Volume 48 of the Sydney Organ Journal. Herein lies the strength of our Journal in that such a range of contributors all but guarantees the variety of content that an interesting publication requires. Apart from obituaries the Journal is almost all

our own work: only one article by a non-member was published this year, the fascinating article *Charles Burney, Music Discoverer* originally written in Dutch by Peter Ouwerkerk, the manager of the Haarlem International Organ Festival, and published for the first time in English in the SOJ.

In thanking so many Society members for their support and encouragement the Editor requests that this happy participation continues in the coming year. Special thanks are due to Associate Editor, Robert Parkinson, whose regular Mixture column is widely appreciated, to Reviews Editor Peter Jewkes whose sometimes quirky command of English makes his contributions so enjoyable, to Pastór de Lasala for his talented photography and to Mark Quarmby for insightful reviews written in his hospital bed whilst recovering from major surgery.

Our journal is received by four Australian university libraries, the NSW State Library and the Australian National Library, by libraries in New Zealand and Canada and by the Research Library of the New York Public Library. It goes to heritage bodies in Australia and the United States where Dr Rollin Smith, editor of *The Tracker*, the journal of the USA Organ Historical Society, notes research published in the SOJ, most recently the editor's article about colonial organists and music teaching. Our Journal is a respected publication and all OMSS members are entitled to a modest pride in it.

The current editor has now occupied his editorial 'chair' for nine years during which the format of the journal has settled comfortably but is now overdue for refreshment. There will therefore be something of a new look commencing with Volume 49 in December 2017. In no way will it be radical but we are particularly keen to present better-quality photographs if this can be done without significantly increasing costs and we are grateful to our printers, Jon Gallimore and Michael Ritchie at Bee Printmail for making this possible. We are also grateful to our advertisers for their continued support. Finally, we are all indebted to the hard, voluntary work of Membership Secretary, Garry Hoyle. For ten years he has prepared the address labels with such accuracy and efficiency that copies very rarely go astray.

We again thank our Editor, Peter Meyer, for his continuing production of an excellent The Sydney Organ Journal. It continues to go from strength to strength in content and interest. Thank you, Peter.

## **8. SOCIETY'S WEBSITE AND LIBRARY <omss.org.au>**

Mark Quarmby, our web master, reports. The Organ Music Society web site is the main form of advertising our events, along with the *Sydney Organ Journal* and e-newsletter. As the *Journal* only appears four times per year, the web site can provide immediate updates to recital details and news between Journals. But, the web site can only provide these details if they are passed onto the web master for uploading. Increasingly, organ event organisers are uploading details to Facebook and not passing them on to us. The advantage of our site is that recitals remain advertised with easy access to details whereas on Facebook, the ads can easily be missed and then vanish from view as they are replaced by later posts.

Our most viewed pages are those relating to the organs of Sydney. Various people, particularly organ builders, take photos of various instruments and pass them on to me or correct details which have been uploaded from old organ journals. It is a bit like Wikipedia in this regard. As the Organ Historical Trust of Australia has been working on the documentation of all Australian organs, I have made navigation between the OMSS and OHTA sites easier with banners to click on the organ index pages to take one to either site.

The Organ Music Society library continues to be housed at St Stephen's, Macquarie St. I certainly use it frequently as do the organ scholars but others don't use it so much these days, preferring to download free music from the Internet and play from sheets of paper rather than books.

It now would be some twenty years since the OMSS website came online and Mark is to be congratulated for maintaining what is a very important part of OMSS.

## **9. EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

The *E-Letter* continues to be produced by Garry Hoyle, our membership secretary. Its regular transmission to members is a valuable service. Thank you, Garry.

We do remind members that any change to your email address should be reported as soon as possible to enable continuing receipt of the *E-Letter*.

## **10. EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Firstly, we must make a special mention of our teachers. Without them, where would we be.

### **The Sydney Organ Competition 2016.**

The Open Section was held at the Verbrugghen Hall. The Society very much appreciates the help of Philip Swanton in gaining access to the hall. We had two overseas competitors in the first round. The three finalists were Nico Tjoelker (1), Samuel Giddy (2) and Jihye Choi (3) being one of the overseas competitors. Adjudicator was Christopher Wrench.

Five entrants competed at Shore for the Intermediate section with the winner being Jonathan Lee. This was adjudicated by Sarah Kim who was also involved with presenting masterclasses on French Romantic music at SCOMA (Sydney Conservatorium Organ Music Academy).

Six entrants competed at St Aloysius' College for the Junior section adjudicated by Christopher Wrench with the winner being Makito Mizushima.

We continue to enjoy the support of our donors, who are very happy and proud sponsors of our talented young organists who never cease to amaze the audiences. We are also most grateful to the schools who gladly let the society make use of their chapels and pipe organs.

The Society is indebted to tutors who are involved in academies as this allows us to have high quality adjudicators as some expenses are then shared.

Much preparation goes into organising the smooth running of competitions with thanks to the Education Subcommittee – Godelieve Ghavalas (Chair), Gregory Cunningham and Robert Fox. Geoff Lloyd also puts in much effort regarding donors and trophies and on the day of the competition many of the committee help to make the event special.

During 2017 there was also much preparation going on to organise the next competition which included a satellite event "Tom Bell Festival" which was held in October 2017.

### **Young Organists Day.**

Eleven young organists played for this event with Robert Ampt doing most of the organising.

CDs recorded at the Organ Competitions are sent to Robert for auditioning those who are to play. This event always has a very large audience and it is a unique experience for them.

Rehearsals are scheduled the day before and we must thank our teachers who make themselves available to tutor their students to perform their best.

### **11. RADIO BROADCASTS**

Broadcasting of organ music continues on Fine Music 102.5 FM with Andrew Grahame now in his sixteenth year.

You are all reminded that the Society's monthly programme "Colours of the King" is streamed live to the internet from finemusicfm.com as well as being broadcast on Fine Music 102.5 FM.

Thank you, Andrew

### **12. FUNCTIONS**

#### **(i) Rambles**

Organ rambles held during the year were:

1. Visit to Carnegie residence (former Christian Science Church, Darlinghurst), with invitations to TOSA, HDOMS and OHTA, on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October
2. Hornsby Uniting Church, St Peter's Hornsby, Galston Uniting Church and St Benedict's Monastery Arcadia on Easter Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April.
3. Albury/Wangaratta on Queen's Birthday long weekend 10-12<sup>th</sup> June with invitations to SOV, HDOMS and OSQ.

#### **(ii) Activities**

- Sydney Conservatorium Organ Music Academy II (SCOMA II) from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
- Sydney Organ Competition on Labour Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Junior. Intermediate and Open sections.
- Childrens' Introduction to the Organ – a school holidays special with Amy Johansen and Robert Ampt at Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.
- AGM at St Luke's, Mosman, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November.
- Young Organists' Day at Sydney Town Hall on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December. Believed to be the best attended session in the history of YOD.
- Provision of cheese for reception following recital on 28<sup>th</sup> July by Daniel Cook at St Mary's Cathedral.

### **13. DEPUTY ORGANISTS**

Andrew Davidson continues to maintain the Register of Deputy Organists. There has not been much change to the circumstances reported last year. Participants are always welcome. Andrew's contacts are by mobile 0414 385 311 or email <ad046@hotmail.com>. Thank you, Andrew.

### **14. CONCLUSION**

Thank you to President Dr Greg Cunningham for his leadership over the year.

Thanks also to all members for supporting the work of the committee. We hope we are achieving the objectives.

We seek new members for the committee. Will you be one? Have a chat to a committee member and prepare for nomination by next year's AGM. Please carefully consider.

*The Committee*