

RSCM



WestNews

Vol. 27 No. 1

FEBRUARY 2018

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

Having had our Annual Meeting, your Branch Committee is now getting down to creating a program of activities for the year. Some of these are regular: Singing Camp and its associated fundraising Concert, and the Annual Choral Festival. Some involve a presenter sharing their knowledge with a group of people: Learn About the Organ and Cantor Workshop. Others need active participation to be successful: [*the Easter Story*,] hymn festival and Gospel music workshop. Thank you to those who responded to my request for ideas: although the number of people who responded was small, there were some useful ideas sent in.

We continue to be blessed with people who freely give of their time and effort. Sometimes even more: I don't think it is appreciated enough that the adults who go on Singing Camp as tutors and carers pay for their time on camp. As a result, we are able to offer a residential camp for significantly less than similar camps that are non-residential. Lucas Philips leads a team committed to making Camp as good as possible, and to letting people know about it. This is the major focus for our activities each year, and we ask that every member of RSCM does something to promote it. There will soon be flyers available to share online or to print and distribute. Please help us in this way.

RSCM has a very important function of creating a place where those who freely give of their time to sing to the glory of God can come together and support each other in our mutual vision. As a growing number of churches move to worship groups or professional ensembles, we need to affirm the importance of our kind of music-making, even if it takes rather more rehearsal than some other forms of music.

There are exciting possibilities emerging for collaboration with similar-minded bodies that do not have our focus on music in worship. I mentioned at the Annual Meeting that the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) has invited us to participate in its national ChoralFest in Fremantle in March next year just before Easter, and some other possibilities are now appearing even for this year. There is a catchphrase around at the moment, that people need to 'get out of their silos'. I believe that our Branch has for many years sought to include other people and groups in our activities. Perhaps the word 'Church' in our name presents a barrier to some, but it is a vital part of our identity. I hope that our collaboration with other groups will send the message that we are inclusive, not exclusive.

Finally, you will read the reports from Sheila Byfield and Jacinta Jakovcevic of the Summer School in Auckland. The music was good, but I am not convinced that having people book their own accommodation instead of staying together is a good development. The collegiality of the schools I have been to in recent years was a vital part of the experience. The next Summer School, as things presently stand, should be Perth in 2022. I would like there to be more information about what is planned for July next year in Sydney, and we shall need to trust in the ability of our confrères in New South Wales to pull it together quickly.

I look forward to being with you as our Branch makes its way through 2019.

John Beaverstock

Chairman

**RSCM WA State Branch Officers
for Year 2018-2019**

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chairman | Mr. John Beaverstock | jbeaverstock8@gmail.com | 0423922472 |
| Secretary | Mr. Ken Taylor | ken@taylor.org.au | wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au |
| Treasurer | Ms. Jane Beaverstock | jane.e.beaverstock@gmail.com | 0401067593 |
| WestNews Editors | Mrs. Moya Sherlock | megdean@aapt.net.au | 9337 2939 |
| | (Mrs. Sheila Byfield) | swbyfield@bigpond.com | 9447 0824 |
| Singing Camp Administrator | Mr. Lucas Phillips | laphillips@iinet.net.au | 0400230578 |
| Committee Members | Mrs. Gill Burbidge, Ms. Jacinta Jakovcevic, Mr. Steven Secker, Mrs. Ruth Styles | | |

WestNews Information

Please send material for publication direct to the Editors:

Email swbyfield@bigpond.com
megdean@aapt.net.au

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CONTENTS The sources of any imported material contained in WestNews are acknowledged wherever this is possible. Apologies are offered to sources of material that for one reason or another may not have been properly acknowledged.

LIBRARY The library is now situated at St.Patrick's Anglican Church, Mt Lawley. Please contact Sheila Byfield to gain access.

WEBSITE The website of RSCM Australia is www.rscmaustralia.org.au. This website includes WA Branch events, as well as details of the interstate branches. Please send details of items for inclusion on the website to the W.A. Secretary at ken@taylor.org.au

FACEBOOK The RSCM Australia Facebook page is www.facebook.com/RSCMAustralia



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 20th APRIL



Happy New Year to everyone! We trust your Christmas services were well attended, and all your hard work in their preparation was appreciated.

We hope that you will look carefully at the programme (on page 3) that the Committee is preparing for your this year, and mark the dates in your diary, so that you can join us for as many as possible.

You will notice that the Singing Camp is expected to be in the metropolitan area in July, so even us 'oldies' should note when it is, and perhaps go and support the youngsters at their services.

We look forward to seeing you.

Moya and Sheila

Award for Joseph Nolan

We congratulate Joseph Nolan, Master of Music at St George's Cathedral, on the award of Doctor of Letters from the University of Western Australia.

Dates to note in your Diary for 2018 events

On Saturday, **24th February**, John Beaverstock conducted a workshop for 'Reluctant Organists' at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church Darlington. Members were advised by e-mail of this event as it was too early for WestNews. Report will be in April Edition.

March/April everyone involved in church music will be preparing for Holy Week and Easter. We wish all members a Holy Easter.

Sunday **May 6th 2pm –3.30pm Gospel Workshop**, to be held at St. Barnabas', Leederville.

Saturday **May 19th Workshop for Cantors. 2.30pm** St. Mary's Cathedral.

Saturday **June 9th 2pm—3.30pm Singing Camp Fundraising Concert.** St. Michael's Anglican Church, Gunbower Street, Mt. Pleasant. Cost \$20, \$15 concession.

July 3rd—8th Singing Camp

Sunday **July 29th 5.00pm Choral Festival** at St. George's Cathedral. Rehearsal date tbc.

Saturday **6th October** Stephen Darlington visit (formerly of Christ Church, Oxford.)
St. Mary's Cathedral tbc.

Sunday **28th October 2.00pm— 3.30pm Hymnfest** based on hymns by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith. St. John's Anglican Church, King's Square, Fremantle

SINGING CAMP 2018

Fundraising Garage Sale

With five months remaining before Camp, fundraising has begun.

A garage sale at Louise Bell's house in St. James took place on the 17th February. The proceeds will help to reduce the cost of Camp.

Keep us in your prayers, and save the date of the Fundraising Concert on Saturday, 9th June.

Speaking of Singing Camp, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to prepare Camp 2018. We are planning to sing in churches around Kalamunda this year, and already have St. Francis of Assisi in Maida Vale on board. More details to follow.

Lucas Phillips, Camp Administrator.



AUSTRALASIAN SUMMER SCHOOL, JANUARY, 2018

Jacinta and I attended the RSCM Summer School in Auckland. It was a bit different in that we had to find our own accommodation (a motel over the road from the school where the SS was held.)

As far as I was concerned, this was not a good idea, because you couldn't retreat to your room if you needed a rest, you couldn't practice in your room, and it made informal sectional rehearsals for the singing very difficult.

The week was very well organised however, and everyone knew exactly what they had to do and when.

The course director was Andrew Lumsden, organist and choir master at Winchester Cathedral, U.K. who led us admirably and with good humour. Incidentally, he made me very cross when at the dinner, he described how the music is organised for boys and girls at his Cathedral now, and having lived all my childhood within a cycle ride of this Cathedral, I feel somewhat cheated at the opportunities that I was never allowed. If I had been able to sing at Winchester, how different might my life have turned out!

Of course we had choral rehearsals every day, and the repertoire was:

Vaughan Williams: All people that on earth do dwell
 Let all the world
 Lord, thou has been our refuge
 O clap your hands
 Te Deum in G.

Associates of Vaughan Williams:

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Bullock | Give us the wings of faith | Finzi | God has gone up |
| Ireland | Greater love | Howells | Magnificat |

N.Z. Composers:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chris Artley | I will lift up mine eyes | In darkness and in light |
| John Richie | Lord when thy sweet sense of grace | |
| Douglas Mews | Introit of the Beatitudes | |
| Ronald Dellow | My heart is fixed | |
| Martyn Heath | The spirit of the Lord | |

Extra! Malcolm Archer At the round earth's imagined corners.

We sang at a Methodist Sunday morning service, a service of music and readings at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, and gave a short concert at St. Matthews in the City on Monday afternoon, but no communion services, which I thought a pity.

We were treated to some excellent workshops:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chris Artley | Composing for choirs |
| Dr. Morag Acheson | Caring for the voice |
| Mary Cornish | Getting the best from children's voices |
| Bishop Peter Atkins | What makes a good hymn |
| Dr. Indra Hughes | Vaughan Williams—the man and his music |
| Dr. Warren Bourne | Vaughan Williams and the Carol |
| David Squire | Getting the best out of your choir. |

Of course Andrew Lumsden gave us a fabulous organ recital, but I was also impressed by a concert given by the family of Rachael Griffiths-Hughes, a harpsichord player whose husband played the baroque cello, and whose daughters joined them playing violins, baroque style with no chin rests and no shoulder rests.

We did have a break mid-week, when the majority were taken to the island of Waiteke, but Jacinta flew to Christchurch for the day to see organs and organists.

Future Summer Schools? The next one will be a Winter School in Sydney, July 6—14, 2019, and National Chairman Ross Cobb, is lining up an amazing array of leaders, although no concrete details are available yet. Contd page

Then Queensland, July 2020, and we are not to have another turn until 2022. I wonder how many of today's members will be fit and able to organize or even attend by then!

Sheila Byfield.



The Perth Contingent at SS 2018 !



The Dilworth School where the Summer School was held. Very impressive facilities with a beautiful chapel—and the food was great. Hey — is that a little Batmobile in front of Dilworth???



We had a bit of free time so a few of us went to the Auckland Tower—but first we had to find it! Here are a few of us looking for the Tower.



Wow—what a great view. The observation deck is around 200 metres above sea level, and apparently Auckland geologically sits on 50 volcanoes!!

Following a quick coffee at Starbucks we had dinner at the 'La La Café - They have a piano and a guitar and invite patrons to play/sing—then they give you free cake!! We sang Mozart's 'Ave Verum'



— and got free cake!!

Photos and captions from Jacinta.

During January whilst in New Zealand for the Summer School, I managed to steal some time and also briefly visit Christchurch.

I had first visited Christchurch in 2009 when our Cathedral's two pipe organs were being rebuilt by the South Island Organ Company in Timaru. I played a number of organs in Christchurch during that visit - many of which were destroyed or badly damaged in the subsequent earthquakes of 2010-2011.

It was very sad to hear of the destruction of some of the very churches and Cathedrals I had played in - it was almost quite eerie too, knowing that some of those buildings no longer existed.

This was my first visit to Christchurch since then - and I didn't realise until I got there how special this visit really was.

Slowly, Christchurch is coming to life. Driving through its streets, many vacant blocks can be seen where buildings once stood - however, new buildings have also been built - and I saw the cardboard Cathedral too !!

I felt very privileged to play 2 of the instruments whose churches had been destroyed in the earthquakes: Oxford Terrace Baptist Church was my sentimental favourite. This was the first pipe organ I played on my trip in 2009 - a wonderful instrument built by Henry Bevington and a beautiful, spacious church - it was truly like a Victorian town hall complete with columns out the front !! This building was damaged in the first earthquake in 2010 and the pipe organ removed by SIOC. The building totally collapsed in the subsequent earthquakes.

And now, on the same site, stands the new Oxford Terrace Baptist Church - a modern building with the same idea of light and spaciousness as its predecessor (but no columns out front), a wonderful acoustic - and the Bevington organ proudly re-installed in roughly the same area of the building where it originally was. And it sounds a treat !!!

The other organ (which I think has also now become another of my sentimental favourites !!) is that of St Paul's Church. This church was very badly damaged and had to be demolished after the earthquake of February 2011. However, previous to that it was damaged by a fire. The organ, a fantastic instrument built by the Hill firm in 1905 sustained some damage and (luckily) was in storage during the time of the earthquakes. This church has also now been rebuilt and the pipe organ repaired and installed in its new home - and what a full, rich sound !!! She even has her (original) hand blowing mechanism in place - so if there is a power blackout, you simply get a couple of parishioners to start pumping the bellows and play away !! The ministers and staff from the church thought that was pretty cool !!

These two instruments are among the first to be rebuilt and installed in their newly rebuilt churches - both were officially opened just in the past couple of weeks.

It was really so very special to play these instruments which are only now playing their first notes after being rebuilt - they are both survivors of such devastation as are their communities, who with faith and raw resilience are slowly rebuilding their lives and their city. I felt that these instruments and their communities are really like symbols of Christchurch rising up with new life after so much destruction and grief.

Also to briefly mention that Thursday, 22nd February is the anniversary of the third devastating earthquake in Christchurch during which many perished - including 3 workers from the South Island Organ Company: Neil Stocker, Scott Lucy and Ian Dunlop. We are thankful for their remarkable dedication and work which we still enjoy today. May God grant them eternal rest.



The Hill organ in the newly rebuilt St. Paul's Trinity Pacific Presbyterian Church.



The Bevington organ in the newly-rebuilt Oxford Terrace Baptist Church in Christchurch.



UNITING CHURCH IN THE CITY

Holy Week and Easter Services

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------|---------|--|
| 29th March | Maundy Thursday | 7.30pm | Tenebrae Service |
| 30th March | Good Friday | 10.00am | Reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ with Wesley Choir and Angela Currie (organ) |
| 30th March | Good Friday | 5.30pm | Liturgy of the Stations of the Cross with Krista Low (cello) and Angela Currie (organ/piano) |
| 31st March | Easter Sunday | 6.30am | Dawn Service at Roe Gardens, Kings Park |
| 31st March | Easter Sunday | 10.00am | Easter Day Celebration with Wesley Brass, Wesley Choir and Angela Currie (organ) |

Wesley Recitals at One

Wesley Recitals will return on
Friday 6 April, 2018, 1pm
 featuring Angela Currie on Organ

And then continue on the
 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 1pm.

For more information contact
 Director of Music, Angela Currie at angelic@ucic.org.au
 or the Church Office on 6103 4222.

St. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

WAAPA Concert

Thursday 12th April 7.30pm. Admission: please see WAAPA website for details.

2018 Cathedral Concert Series: Concert 1

Gloria! Lux aeternal.

Sunday 29th April 2.15pm. Admission: \$35 (\$28 concession)

Our Concert Series 2018 kicks off with a joint concert between the Cathedral Choir and the students from the UWA School of Music—this is a programme combining both exuberance and reflection with a wide variety of repertoire ranging from Vivaldi's 'Gloria', an evergreen classic, to the 'Lux Aeterna' of Ligeti, a modern masterpiece.

Complimentary, light Miss Maud refreshments served during interval in the Parish Centre and courtyard.

Community Singing 1

Sunday 24th June 2—4pm Admission: \$15 (\$12 concession)

The usual fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon—singing, socialising and some light Miss Maud refreshments to enjoy during interval. Door prize, raffle as per usual, too!!

Information regarding further concerts will be inserted in future editions of WestNews. Ed.

LOVE TO SING? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



St. JOHN'S FREMANTLE COMMUNITY CHOIR MONDAYS 6.30—8.00pm

In St. John's Church, Adelaide Street, Fremantle. Mozart, Bach, and glorious churchy music!

Absolute beginners to concert singers, religious or not—all are welcome!

For more information: admin@fremantle.perth.anglican.org. (9335.2213)



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from 45 minutes before the concert.

  E: dominicp@optusnet.com.au

Concert 1 **EASTER** MONDAY 26 MARCH 7PM

Begin Holy Week with a Monday evening concert of choir and organ music tracing Christ's journey from Palm Sunday to his death and resurrection.

LUMINA – choir **CAMERON VAN REYK** – choral director
DOMINIC PERISSINOTTO – pipe organ

Weelkes – Gregorian Chant – Bairstow – Tallis – Titelouze – Liszt – Victoria – Philips – Tournemire

Concert 2 **FANTASIE** MONDAY 4 JUNE 2:30PM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FREMANTLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Enjoy the June WA Day public holiday with an afternoon in Fremantle's beautiful Basilica, with some favourite organ works drawn from the 18 years of Pipe Organ Plus concerts.

DOMINIC PERISSINOTTO – pipe organ

Bossi – Stanley – Handel – Hollins – Boëllman – Bach Vierne – Ives – Mozart arr Coleman – Widor

Concert 3 **SYMPHONY** SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2:30PM

Marvel at the vast expanse of aural possibilities on the Grand Organ at St Patrick's Basilica in this concert focusing on transcriptions of epic symphonic works.

DOMINIC PERISSINOTTO – pipe organ

Vaughan Williams – Mahler – arr Briggs

Concert 4 **FOR THE FALLEN** SUNDAY 11 NOV 2:30PM

Remember the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice of World War I, as we honour those who have fallen through poems and music.

JAMES HAGAN – reader **EVA-MARIE MIDDLETON** – soprano
MICHAEL HEAP – baritone **BRENT GRAPES** – trumpet
DOMINIC PERISSINOTTO – pipe organ

Persichetti – Eliot – FS Kelly – Butterworth – Brooke – Stadler – Britten – Jongen – Apollinaire – Owen – Vaughan Williams – Whitman – Hindemith – Ungaretti – Bossi – Akhmatova – Brahms – Palmer – Binyon – Broadstock

2018 Fremantle Eisteddfod

Wednesday 16th May—Wednesday 23rd May

Venues: Fremantle Town Hall

St. John the Evangelist Church, Fremantle

All enquiries: email: info@fremantleeisteddfod.org.au