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SOCIETY DIARY FOR 1974

MARCH 11 Labor Day. Historic organs in Richmond
APRIL 19 Victorian evening & "Meet the President"
MAY 11 City organs
JUNE 15 - 17 Queen's birthday long-weekend. Country organs: Hamilton & Warrnambool
JULY Ormond College - demonstration/recital
AUGUST Film evening
SEPTEMBER "Composers; their music & their organs" - lecture Educational project I
OCTOBER Lecture/racital Educational project II
NOVEMBER 5 Cup Day. Historic country organs: Clunes & Daylesford
NOVEMBER 9 Couperin birthday celebration: harpsichord & supper
DECEMBER Social function
#Subject to confirmation in supplement

COVER PHOTO
The organ in St Ignatius' Church, Richmond
(George Fincham, 1874)
THE GRAND TASMANIAN ORGAN CRAWL

BY KATH CAMPBELL

The first historical (hysterical at times) organ crawl of the Society 'overseas' was an unqualified success from beginning to end.

During the six days spent in Tasmania more than thirty organs - mainly of ancient vintage - were visited and two old colonial homes, Entally House and Clarendon House, were viewed. Each day was packed with interest and a great deal of fun.

The first console viewed was thousands of feet above Bass Strait when we were invited into the cockpit of the Pokker Friendship which took us to Wynyard. However, we were forbidden to switch off the blower or to pull out the Grand Bombarde!

On arrival at Wynyard we were met by a very apprehensive coach driver who had been wondering what kind of people wanted to go to church so often in six days. He soon found out that we were really quite ordinary people but was rather mystified at our reluctance to join in his customary 'sing-song' after lunch.

Seven organs were visited on the way to Launceston. These were all most interesting, but the church of St Mary, at Hagley, with its beautiful gardens and fine spire will probably be remembered best by most of us. We were very hot and tired when we arrived at Launceston, but a good dinner and a visit to the home of Lindsay O'Niell, the Organist of St John's Church, revived our flagging spirits.

Next day we set off to visit some churches in Launceston; there was much of interest to be seen here. The hydraulic blowing apparatus at the Albert Hall caused great interest and most people ventured down the ladder into the cellar to see it as well as to get cool! An 1874 Bevington organ which we saw later at Christ Church Congregational captured both our ears and hearts.

A demonstration and recital given at St John's by Lindsay O'Neill was one of the highlights of the whole tour. The beauty of the organ, with the only 32ft stop and Tuba in Tasmania, was matched by the excellence of the playing and the beauty of the church itself. Our thanks must go to Lindsay for his part in organising the northern section of the tour.

On the third day we wandered around the grounds of Entally House and enjoyed an 'alfresco' luncheon in the grounds of the church at Longford before savouring the delights of the fine Bishop organ and looking at an ancient seraphine at the west end of the church. Later, most of us were sufficiently brave to inspect a hydro-electric power station at Poatina located 500 feet underground.

On the fourth day we journeyed through the centre of Tasmania, stopping at Evandale, where we admired the architecture of the Presbyterian Church, and at Campbell Town, Bothwell and Pontville. That
evening we greatly enjoyed an organ recital - the final in a series given in Hobart Town Hall by the City Organist, John Nicholls. Although it was extremely hot, the hall was well filled, and the organist who was in fine form, gave an interesting programme ranging from Bach's Trio Sonata in E flat to Simon Preston's 'Allelujahs'. This was followed by a very pleasant reception given by the Hobart Guild of Organists. Here we met many organists from many different parts of Tasmania.

The next day we visited five organs in and around Hobart. This included a very pleasant hour in St David's Cathedral where John Nicholls demonstrated the beauty of the organ and showed us the treasures of the Cathedral. In the evening we saw and heard the very versatile organ in Wesley Church. Some of us had a new experience when we climbed into the swell box while 'Cwm Rhonda' was being played! After this we crawled up a steep hill to the home of the Rev. Michael Johnson who is fortunate in having a delightful chamber organ in his home. Our thanks go to him for the part he played in organising the Hobart section of the trip.

On the final day we had a very interesting drive through Ferntree, Kingston and Taroona before crossing the Derwent to visit the church at Rokeby. Here we saw the earliest church organ brought to Tasmania, a John Gray instrument of 1824 which was most interesting and made beautiful sounds. It was here that our coach driver really surprised us by suddenly announcing that something was 'allegro' or 'largo'. There are not many coach drivers who have sat on the stool of an historic organ and played the National Anthem with one finger! It would be interesting to know what he told his next coach load about us.

Our last call was at Richmond to see the famous bridge and the very lovely Anglican church and the historic Roman Catholic church.
When we arrived at Hobart airport we were told that the flight was delayed for two hours. This was the only occasion during the tour that we had time on our hands, but alas there were no organs to play. Some time was spent therefore designing various residence organs on scrap paper.

Although the weather was hot during the tour there were fans - mechanical and otherwise - to take our minds off the problem, and the whole tour was a great success. The thanks of all must go to Joy Hearne for her organisation, to John Maidment for his demonstrations and imparting his historical knowledge of the organs, and to the rest of the group for being so cooperative in all ways. We hope that this is but the first of other similar tours to come.

Complete details of all the instruments visited are given in the Tasmanian tour notes available from the Publications Officer, Society of Organists (Victoria) Incorporated, P.O. Box 9526, Melbourne, Vic. 3001, upon receipt of two seven cent stamps. An excellent illustrated booklet of 88 pages entitled Pipe Organs of Tasmania has just been published by the Hobart Guild of Organists. It gives a complete specification, history and photograph of every pipe organ in the state. It is also available from the Publications Officer upon receipt of a remittance for $3.50; this sum is inclusive of postage.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. A. E. FLOYD

St Paul's Cathedral was nearly filled to capacity on Sunday evening 3rd February for the memorial evensong held to commemorate the life and work of the late Dr A.E. Floyd, Cathedral Organist from 1915 to 1947. Before the service two appropriate voluntaries were played by the present Cathedral Organist, Miss June Nixon: "An Old English Melody" and a Chorale Prelude on Song 13 by Orlando Gibbons, the former edited by, and the latter composed by Dr Floyd. The concluding voluntary was Karg-Elert's "Interludium - and the life of the world to come". The Choir also sang two anthems composed by Dr Floyd - "O God, for as much as without thee ..." and "There is a secret place of rest". We were all most impressed by the clarity and precision of the singing of the Choir. Later, Dean Thomas gave the address, enumerating details of Dr Floyd's manifold achieve-
ments. The whole service was most impressive and formed a fitting and memorable tribute to a greatly revered musician.
A RECITAL AT SORRENTO, VICTORIA

To spend a beautiful summer's evening listening to fine organ playing is a delight experienced all too infrequently. Such an opportunity was provided recently by Mr David Agg, one of our members. The recital took place in St John's Anglican Church, Sorrento, on Saturday, 19th January, at 7.30 p.m.

St John's Church, built of local lime stone, has a National Trust classification and has already celebrated its centenary. The origin of the organ is uncertain but it would seem that it was built, possibly by Smith, over a century ago.

David Agg exploited this small instrument to the utmost in presenting his annotated recital of works by composers ranging from Sweelinck (1562-1621) to Flor Peeters. The instrument, being of one manual and two octaves of pedals is necessarily restrictive to programme building, however, David, with the assistance of a "stop-puller" (of delightful appearance!), produced effects comparable to those obtainable on a larger organ and there was no lack of interest in the programme.

In the opinion of the author the highlights of the recital were the Offertorio in C, by Zipoli (1689-1726) and the Tambourin sur des Noels, by Charpentier (1734-1794) in the first half of the programme. The adventurous Fugue in C, by Buxtehude (1637-1707) made a spirited introduction to the second half and provided contrast to the two chorale preludes of Brahms played later in the programme. Other pieces played were by Greene, Stanley, Couperin, Franck, Walther and J.S. Bach. Two preludes and hymns in the Dorian and and Phrygian modes by Peeters provided the penultimate group of works. The recital ended with the beautiful set of six variations on "My young life hath an end", by Sweelinck.

The recitalist is to be commended for his enterprise in carrying out this venture, and one would hope that others might emulate his example in providing recitals of classical music (not necessarily organ) in holiday resorts remote from city and suburban centres.

W.J. Ralph

NEW ORGANIST FOR ST. PETER'S, EASTERN HILL

Mr John O'Donnell, formerly Organist of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and now a Senior Lecturer at the Victorian College for the Arts, has been appointed to the position of Organist and Director of Music at St Peter's Anglican Church, Eastern Hill, in succession to Mrs Margaret Robbins. In addition to being a graduate in music of the University of Durham, he is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (Ch.M), and holds the Archbishop's Diploma in Church Music. He studied in Paris under the famous organist and composer Jean Langlais. With the appointment of a new organist and the installation this month of a fine new organ, St Peter's should again become distinguished for the excellence of both its choral and organ music.
With the Gazetteers for Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia already published, and South Australia nearly ready for the printer, it remains only for Queensland and New South Wales to be completed.

The Gazetteer of Queensland Pipe Organs will list approximately 160 organs, 100 of these being in the Brisbane area, and the remainder spread as far north as Cairns, and as far west as Roma and Hughenden. As complete as possible a history of each organ is being compiled, and at least five of the organs to be listed are no longer in existence.

In order to gather accurate information, it will be necessary to travel almost 3000 miles. A grant of $650 from the Australian Council for the Arts, together with the much valued assistance of organists and organ-builders, particularly Messrs Whitehouse Bros. of Brisbane, should enable the project to be completed within the next twelve months.

The first organ imported into Queensland was a two-manual J.W. Walker installed in 1860 at St Paul's Anglican Church, Ipswich. By the late 1880's however, organs were being built locally by Mr Edward F. Waldron and by Mr B.B. Whitehouse.

Almost certainly the oldest organ in the State is that at St Mary's Anglican Church, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. This organ, which has been rebuilt since, bears a plate inscribed "H.C. Lincoln, organ builder to the King, London". A pencilled inscription on the back of the swell box states "this box was made by H.L. and staff, Easter week, March 1823". The organ could well date from the eighteenth century, the swell box being a later addition by Lincoln. The pedal board appears to have been added about 1897. There is evidence to suggest that the Great originally extended down to the G below its present compass, and that the swell was originally from middle-G. The organ was imported in about 1874, and its original location in England is not known for certain. Another mystery is the original location in England of an 1834 Hill & Son organ installed at the Creek Street Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, in 1883, now located at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brisbane.

At the other end of the historical scale, the newest organ to be included will probably be the proposed three-manual tracker-action instrument to be built for Mayne Hall, University of Queensland, by Messrs R.H. Pogson Pty Ltd of Sydney, which should be completed by mid-1975. This instrument will be the first of its type in the State, and one of the largest neo-classic organs to be completed in the country.
Unlike the Thomson Memorial Church, Terang, the Noorat Presbyterian Church is a small and simple structure, yet one of great charm and character. It possesses one of the largest pipe organs for a church of its size in Victoria.

In 1846 a meeting convened by the Hon. Niel Black of Mount Noorat was called to assess the spiritual needs of the people in the area. As a result, in 1847, the Rev. William Hamilton of Goulburn, N.S.W., was called to Kilnoorat (Church of Noorat), situated on the corners of four great sheep stations.

In 1873, services began at Mount Noorat and 1883 saw the present Noorat church erected by Mrs Niel Black, in memory of her husband, The Hon. Niel Black. 1888 saw the introduction of a harmonium, or what some called a "kist o' whistles". The cost of the instrument was £32.

In 1892 Niel W. Black bought a two manual tracker-action organ from George Peake, one of Melbourne's leading organists and teachers. It had been installed in Peake's Collins Street chambers in 1875 by
George Fincham, for £245. Fincham installed the organ in the Noorat Church and added an Oboe to the Swell and Dulciana to the Great. The opening recital was given in March 1893.

Neil W. Black had the organ rebuilt in 1902 as a three manual tracker-action instrument with the addition of a Choir organ. The Fifteenth was transferred from the Swell organ to the Great, four stops added to the Swell, including a Double Diapason 16ft. A Bass flute was added to the Pedal organ; four stops constituted a new Choir organ with three additional couplers, and the pedal action was converted to tubular-pneumatic action, the cost being £257. The completed organ consisted of five ranks on the Great, eight on the Swell, four on the Choir and two on the Pedal organ, with six couplers. It was re-opened on May 10th 1902. Further alterations were made in October 1904, when the Violin Diapason replaced the Dulciana on the Great and the Dulciana replaced the Choir Salicional; the Salicional replacing the Swell Gamma. In 1905, the Dulciana was revoiced as Gamba 4' and replaced the Swell Piccolo. All alterations were at the wish of the organist, most likely N.W. Black.

A few weeks after the erection of a Hill & Son organ in "Dalvui" (N.W. Black's home), Niel W. Black left Australia on the ship S.S. Waratah to visit England. The ship went down in July 1909 somewhere between Capetown and England. No reason for the disaster was known, and no wreckage or survivor was ever found.

The Hill & Son organ was later presented to Geelong Grammar School, Corio, by Steuart G. Black as a memorial to his brother Neil W. Black.

The 1902 instrument served the church until 1966, when it was decided to proceed with a rebuilding programme, converting the action to electro-pneumatic and installing a new console. The specification which was agreed upon was arrived at by consultation with the organ builders Messrs George Fincham & Sons Pty Ltd and the consultants, Messrs D.W. Martin and William Laught, who are members of the Committee on Church Music of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria.

Apart from converting the action to electro-pneumatic, and a new console being installed, the specification of the organ was brought into line with modern trends in organ building. Although an attempt was made to retain the character of individual stops, the overall power and flexibility of the instrument has been greatly enhanced by the strengthening of the upper and lower registers. However, in the process the number of pipes was reduced from 1250 to 999. It is doubtful if an organ of this size and flexibility could be found in any centre comparable in size with Noorat. The cost of reconstruction was over $7,000 (raised in just over three weeks).

Two of the most pleasing aspects aesthetically are a fine new console and the additions to the organ casework, which now spans the apse. No amount of detail has escaped in securing the original design for the additions to the casework, a remarkable sight.
The organ was re-opened on the 11th September 1966, with a recital by Mr. D.W. Martin, L.R.A.M. A.Mus.A., Director of Music, Geelong College, and Organist, St George's Presbyterian Church Geelong.

The generous endowment of £1500 by Niel W. Black, added to from time to time, is still sufficient for general maintenance of the instrument. The Noorat Church has reason to bless a very great man in the person of Niel Walter Black, not only for his gifts of money and in kind, but for his talents which have carried over to the present day.

References:  
**A Century of Service** [Terang Church History]  
(Terang Express Print, 1936, 1961.)

**Matthews, E.N. Colonial Organs and Organbuilders**,  
(Melb., M.U.P. 1969)

**The Rolling Years** [Noorat Church History],  
(Warrn. Collett & Bain, 1973)

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### SPECIFICATION PRIOR TO RECONSTRUCTION:

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SPECIFICATION OF RECONSTRUCTED ORGAN: 1966, George Fincham & Son Pty Ltd

GREAT ORGAN

1 Open diapason 6
2 Claribel 8
3 Dulciana 8
4 Principal 4
5 Twelfth (new) 2-2/3
6 Fifteenth 2

PEDESTAL ORGAN

15 Sub bass (formerly Bourdon) 16
16 Bourdon (new) 16
17 Principal (from No. 1 Great) 8

SWELL ORGAN

7 Open diapason 8
8 Stopped diapason 8
9 Gamba 8
10 Gemshorn 4
11 Flute 4
12 Superoctava (new) 2
13 Mixture (new) 19-22 II 1
14 Clarinet 8

7 Couplers and tremulant

993 pipes

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Presbyterian Church, Terang

Sir,—The interesting article, in February issue of the V.O.J., by Daniel Ferguson, states 'Some discrepancy exists as to the actual number of stops replaced by Fincham' in the organ he sold second-hand to the Presbyterian Church, Terang. Mr Ferguson has quoted the specification p 209 Colonial Organs and Organbuilders, under Holy Trinity Church Kew. There is no discrepancy in what I have written. The new pipes supplied by Fincham & Son in 1902 were: Great Organ Open Diapason, 24 new pipes, new Dulciana in place of Viol d’Gamba, Principal 24 new pipes. Swell Organ new Open Diapason, Ten C Oboe extended to CC, 12 new pipes.

Note on p 6 V.O.J., is misleading. Hautboy is the Oboe. The above information will show there is no discrepancy.

E.N. Matthews

NOMADIC MEMBERS: THE SAGA COMMENCES

Details of the present whereabouts of the Rev. F.J. Pell, formerly of Kew, Mr Stephen Baldwin, formerly of Prahran, and Mrs H.L. Mackey, formerly of Hobart, would be gratefully received by the Membership Secretary C/o G.P.O. Box. The cost of posting the Journal will double from 1st March and you are therefore urged to advise the Membership Secretary well in advance of any projected changes in address. Return postage of unclaimed journals is an unwelcome drain upon the Society's resources.
TWO EXPATRIATED ORGANS

AN ORGAN IN HONG KONG, BY D.W. RANKIN

During October 1971, I had the opportunity of visiting one organ on the island of Hong Kong, at St. Joseph's R.C. Church.¹

This pipe organ was at the time unplayable as it had suffered from damage by water during a recent typhoon; an electronic organ had replaced it.

There was no record of the maker nor of the date of manufacture on the console, and I was unable to find out these details from the Church Office. However, the date 1919 appears on the organ case. The action appeared to be tubular-pneumatic.

The specification was as follows:-

**GREAT** | **SWELL** | **PEDAL**
---|---|---
Open diapason 8 | Rohr flute 8 | Bourdon 16
Hohl flute 8 | Viol 8 | Bass flute 8
Dulciana 8 | Angelica celeste 8 |
Principal 4 | Octave 4 | great to pedal
Lieblich flute 4 | Gemschnörn 4 | swell to pedal

**AN ALIEN IBERIAN ORGAN, BY S.W. GUEST**

In Lisbon, Portugal, we saw our very first organ outside Australia and to our absolute amazement it was a Fincham! It was in St. George's Church of England which is a Church near the centre of Lisbon for English people. It was a two-manual instrument built by Henry Fincham,² of 160 Ruscon Road, London. We turned it on and played it; to our untrained ears it seemed to be in quite good condition.

The specification was as follows:

**GREAT**

| Open diapason 8 |
| Lieblich gedackt 8 |
| Gamba 8 |
| Dulciana 8 |
| Principal 4 |
| Harmonic flute 4 |
| Harmonic piccolo 2 |
| Trumpet 8 |
| Corno di basso 8 |

**SWELL**

| Double open diapason 16 |
| Horn diapason 8 |
| Stop diapason 8 |
| Vox angelica 8 |
| Vox celeste 8 |
| Principal 4 |
| Flûte à cheminée 4 |
| Fifteenth 2 |
| Mixture 2 |
| Cornopean 8 |
| Cboe 8 |
| Vox humana 8 |

**PEDAL**

| Grand open diapason 16 |
| Bourdon 16 |
| great to pedals |
| swell to pedal |
| swell to great |
| swell super octave |

¹In the Dictionary of Organs and Organists, London, 1921, p.286.

²Henry Fincham (1849-93) was the nephew of our George Fincham. His business was taken over by Gray and Davison. - Matthews, E.N. Colonial organs and organbuilders, Melbourne, 1969, p.8.
Reverberations; music for organ, brass and electronic tape

Includes works by Ian Bonighton, Felix Werder, Ron Nagorcka and Keith Humble played by Douglas Lawrence on the organ of St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, in conjunction with the Festival Brass Ensemble. (Move MS 3008)

During the past 15 years more than a score of organ recordings have been made in Australia of which at least eight were recorded by Sergio de Pieri. The musical content of most of these recordings has, on the whole, remained within well-tried parts of the repertoire. Thus, this recording would appear to be very much a 'first' in that it exclusively presents compositions for the organ written by contemporary Australian composers.

The music played bears little evidence of orthodox principles of composition and therefore is of extreme interest and worthy of close study. Douglas Lawrence's playing, moreover, shows keen insight and sympathy with the music which, being essentially improvisatory in nature, makes tremendous demands on the player. The notation of this music would, I am sure, be quite mystifying to most of us!

The quality of the recorded sound is quite first-rate, the sense of spaciousness being quite extraordinary. The recording engineers must have experimented for some considerable time to achieve this result. It is certain that the best of our local organ recordings (see also Victorian Organ Journal December 1972, p.10) are now equal with the best being produced anywhere, and one hopes they will gain the wide distribution both locally and overseas which they deserve.

J.R.M.

SPECIFICATION OUR LADY’S R.C. CHURCH, SUNSHINE

The organ in Our Lady's Church was built in 1966 by Hill, Norman & Beard (Aust.) Pty. Ltd; it was designed on "extension" lines and possessed the following ranks: Subbass/Gedeckt 16, Spitz-principal 8, Dulciana 8, Sesquialtera 12.17, and Krumhorn 8. Earlier this year, the console of this instrument was destroyed by an arsonist while the pipework, located 20 feet above the console at the "west" end fortunately only suffered minor damage. However, the opportunity has been taken to re-design the instrument on more orthodox lines: thus, the Spitz-principal has been replaced above 4ft with pipework of a fuller tonality; the Dulciana has been revoiced as a Salicional; the Sesquialtera has been re-cast as a quint Mixture, a new unison rank being added and the Tierce made separately available; and, lastly, the Krumhorn has been revoiced and extended to 16ft pitch. There is a new stop-key console at the "east" end of the nave, and an attractive new organ case has been provided which is a handsome ornament to the Church.
MEMBERSHIP NOTES

We welcome the following new members

Mr John Byrne (Caulfield)
Mrs Alice Collis (Essendon)
Dr J.D. Trembath (Eaglehawk)

POSITIONS VACANT

BRIGHTON METHODIST CHURCH (MALE STREET)

An Organist is required. One service each Sunday at 10.00a.m. plus accompanying at choir practice Thursdays at 8.00p.m. Enquiries to Dr John Maconochie (96.1901).

HARTWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Organist is required. Sunday morning services only plus weekly choir practice. One manual Fincham pipe organ without pedals. Enquiries to Mr Laurie Thorn (288.4715).

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH' BLACKBURN

An Organist & Choirmaster is required. Two services each Sunday at 10.00a.m. and 7.00p.m. plus choir practice Thursdays at 7.30p.m. Enthusiastic choir. One manual 'Lipp' organ. Enquiries to the Vicar (378.8936).

SOUTH ESSENDON METHODIST CHURCH

An organist is required (no choir) One Sunday morning service with occasional evening services. Two manual Walker 'positif' pipe organ. Enquiries to Rev. K. Shuey (37.6115) or Mr H. Campbell (337.9008).
ORGAN MUSIC

A selection of titles from our large stock of organ music in the Edwin Kalmus edition -

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W.F. Bach - Organ Works
J. Bermudo (1555) - Organ Pieces
G. Cavazzone (16th cent.) - Organ Book
Clerambault - Organ Book
F. Couperin - Mass of the Parishes
Frescobaldi - Mass of the Convents
Gabrieli - Soeur Monique
De Santa Maria - Toccatas
Kerll (1627-1693) - Partitas I. II.
Palestrina - Organ Works in 5 Volumes

BOOKS

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An introduction to technique, style
and the historical sources
2nd edition, 1973 $ 9.75

The Choral Conductor (Kurt Thomas)
Technique of Choral conducting in
theory and practice $ 5.20

Charles E. Ives Memos (edit. J. Kirkpatrick) $16.25
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