



OTAGO & SOUTHLAND ORGAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

(Affiliated to the New Zealand Organ Association)

Registered Charity: CC No. 31003

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2024 – 63 years and counting!

Our previous Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 15th March 2024 at St. John's Anglican Church, Roslyn, Dunedin. There were 13 members present, and 7 apologies.

The officers and committee elected for the year were:

President	Mark Hughes
Vice President	Stephen Chalcraft
Secretary / Treasurer	Sue McLintock
Committee	Robert McLintock
	Mark Patterson
	Peter Stockwell
Southland Representative	Sherry Shelton
NZOA Councillor	Stephen Chalcraft

Financial and Non-Financial Benefits (our Aims)

- i. Promote organ playing
- ii. Promote the literature of the organ
- iii. Promote the maintenance and preservation of pipe organs
- iv. Promote the continued building and installation of new instruments
- v. Encourage new members to become involved and engaged in all of the above

Strategic Alignment

- Support the aims of the New Zealand Organ Association Inc. that are:
 - i. To promote and foster in New Zealand an interest in and knowledge of organs, organ music, organ building and associated matters
 - ii. To encourage young people and others to become organ students
 - iii. To advance the knowledge of organ students and others by arranging public and other recitals, concerts and master classes and by providing lectures, discussions, conferences and practical sessions on topics of interest to and of value to organists and others
 - iv. To enable organ students and others to develop their skills and widen their knowledge by promoting the exchange of organists within New Zealand and overseas
 - v. To stimulate public interest in the preservation of New Zealand organs of national or local importance and of organ building records
 - vi. To encourage scholarly research into the organ, its composers, music, history and construction
 - vii. To liaise closely with other musical groups with similar objectives and to encourage the formation and growth of organs societies in New Zealand

Events

Friday 15th March 2024 – St John’s Anglican Church, Roslyn, Dunedin

Following on from the AGM, Alan Edwards introduced the organ at St John’s Anglican Church, Roslyn, and played several short pieces demonstrating various aspects of the organ. Mark Patterson had brought along and set up his Makin digital organ. Mark and Stephen played a duet which illustrated the effect of using both the pipe organ with digital enhancement. Mark and Alan also played a duet. Mark then gave a very robust rendition of Mons Leidvin Tackle’s “The Power of Life” which was very much enjoyed by all present.

2024 NZ Organ Festival – Dunedin – Matariki (27th - 30th June 2024)

This was the inaugural national organ festival to be hosted over the long weekend coinciding with the official New Zealand Matariki weekend, rather than the traditional Queen’s / King’s Birthday weekend. NZOA had endorsed our OSOA recommendation to test this, and what an absolute joy it was to receive such welcome strong support from the 70 members of the four associations who registered. The Developing Organist Opportunity, themed as the “Rising Stars”, was very much the focus of the programme, along with enjoying the contributions of so many other musicians over the weekend too.

The key to the musical success of this weekend was no doubt very much thanks to our Guest Recitalist, David Burchell, who not only performed this role magnificently, but undertook organising the programme for the Developing Organists – promoted throughout the weekend as our “Rising Stars”. The other person who was key to the co-ordination and smooth running of the weekend, was Sue McLintock. The lead up to the weekend practically took over Sue’s life, and thank you too, to Robert, for supporting Sue. Robert McLintock undertook a significant amount of research and compiled a well received 55-page supporting publication: *Festival Organs: a history of the Churches and Organs* / compiled for the 2024 NZ Organ Festival: Theme: “Rising Stars”: Hosted by The Otago & Southland Organ Association Inc. 27th June to 30th June 2024.

Our committee, that included David Burchell in the lead up to the festival, received glowing feedback from many of those who attended. A full report of the festival was published in Vol.60, no.2, September 2024 of the NZOA publication *New Zealand Organ News*. We also made sure there was a follow up feature with photos in our own OSOA publication *Stop Press*, in the August 2024 issue.

With the festival behind us, and while we appreciated basking in the overall success of it all, we did take the opportunity to ask for feedback from those who attended; and the key people who organised the programme. We compiled a two-page summary of: ‘Suggestions for future NZOA supported festivals’ and provided copies to the NZOA Council members.

The three absolute key recommendations are:

- Link in with other musical groups and activities as these may be able to provide innovative musical combinations with organs and organists and also help share/defray costs and risks. This also assists overall with providing greater publicity to the whole Festival.
- Matariki vs King’s Birthday. Most 2024 respondents favoured the former option because it is less likely to conflict with significant Church calendar festival events such as Pentecost Sunday or Trinity Sunday (as it appears to do so for King’s Birthday).

- If we wish to attract participation from secondary school and tertiary sector students, late June / early July overlaps nicely with their semester breaks, having recently completed their mid-year exams. They may also have prepared examination pieces that they have mastered and can play at the festival.

So, we leave it with the NZOA Council to provide guidance to those who volunteer to organise future festivals, as to whether they take these into consideration or otherwise.

Sunday 29th September 2024 - Potluck lunch at the Chalcrofts, 1.00pm

11 people enjoyed a generous potluck lunch together. We then moved to one end of the house where Stephen Chalcroft and Alan Edwards played several items on the spinet and harpsichord. We then relocated to the other end of the house where Stephen demonstrated the various instruments available on his Johannus LIVE 111 digital 3 manual organ. Thank you to Stephen and Doris for hosting us, and to Alan too for bringing along and setting up his spinet.

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Dunedin - 150th Anniversary

The OSOA committee was very aware that towards the end of 2024 the parish might celebrate this milestone. The timing was unfortunate as the co-vicars had just moved on from the parish, and several key people also left St Matthew's at the same time. The Vestry decided to postpone any celebrations to the new year. The OSOA committee remain enthusiastic about arranging a concert in 2025, celebrating the Bevington pipe organ, particularly as it had some restoration work funded by the parish and carried out on it by the SIOC in the lead up to the 2024 NZ Organ Festival.

The Dunedin Town Hall Organ Trust arranged two public recitals during 2024:

3pm Sunday, 30th June. "Festival Finale" concert. This was a fitting end to the festival weekend – our thanks to the Dunedin Town Hall Organ Trust for hosting this splendid event.

3pm Sunday, 10th November. Kemp English & Yuka Eguchi. Popular NZ musician Kemp English was joined for this concert by violinist Yuka Eguchi, Assistant Concertmaster of the NZ Symphony Orchestra, in a unique programme of music for organ and violin. 187 people attended, and this recital was very well received.

The first recital for 2025 took place at 3pm Sunday, 2nd March. Jeremy Woodside of Christchurch presented a delightful programme entitled "Bach to Blues".

Jeremy took part in last year's NZ Organ Festival, playing at the "Visions of Heaven" concert and the "Pipes at Port" concert plus playing a duet at St Joseph's Cathedral with David Burchell.

Invercargill

Sherry Shelton organized and hosted three concerts in her Bluff home music studio: Saturday 7th September (Sherry); Saturday 5th October (Sherry) and Saturday 2nd November with David Burchell as guest recitalist.

There were also two concerts held on the Blitz organ at St Theresa's, on the last Sundays of October and November from 6.15 to 6.45 p.m.

Sherry is currently in the process of promoting further organ concerts in Invercargill in April.

North Otago

A tentative plan was made to visit St Andrew's Anglican Church, Maheno and St Luke's Anglican Church, Oamaru early in 2025. It was decided to defer this trip until the installation of the new digital organ in the Oamaru Basilica is completed, as we wish to include this instrument in the planned trip.

Over the last year members of our Association have been following with interest, several reports published in the Otago Daily Times about the work being undertaken by Oamaru organ specialist, Dr. Ron Newton. Located in the marvellous setting and acoustic of the Waitaki Boys' High School Hall of Memories, the pipe organ is a very fine example of Lawton & Osborne's work.

Touring recitalists

In recent weeks Invercargill and Dunedin have hosted international concert organists, including Hans Hielscher and Chris Hainsworth. Baritone Andre Heyboer accompanied Chris Hainsworth on his tour. Although these concerts were primarily arranged by these concert organists, members of our association provided much appreciated additional support. The support was appreciated by both these professional organists, and the concert audiences.

Stop Press

Sue McLintock once again compiled and edited three issues of *Stop Press*, keeping our membership informed of the various events, developments, and opportunities available to them. Some of the content was re-edited and reproduced in the NZOA publication *New Zealand Organ News*, maintaining and enhancing our profile on the national scene.

Through the two publications, we learn about the ongoing work of the two Timaru based organ companies: *Anderson Pipe Organs Ltd*, and the *South Island Organ Company*, including work they carry out in our Otago and Southland regions. Thank you too, to Mark Patterson for supporting *New Zealand Organ News*, regularly advertising 'Clarity Audio Visual'. Sponsorship from all three of these companies was appreciated as part of the supporting 2024 NZ Organ Festival programme booklet.

Stephen Chalcraft, our Vice President, extends our promotional initiatives via Facebook. We encourage our members to pick up on this and share our posts with their friends, and wider circles of contacts. This year Stephen undertook additional promotional initiatives, particularly for promoting events to the wider public relating to the 2024 NZ Organ Festival.

People

David Burchell, Dunedin City Organist, is one of our members. David is generous with his time and energy, preparing his students and himself too, for public concerts. We really appreciated David's significant contribution to the planning for the highly successful 2024 New Zealand Organ Festival. We also appreciate the Town Hall Organ recital series that David and the Dunedin Town Hall Organ Trust continue to arrange.

As at 31.12.2024 we had 32 members in total – made up of:

6	Unaffiliated members
9	Students
13	Affiliated i.e. Dunedin based
3	Associate i.e. outside Dunedin
1	Life member

We are pleased to advise that three new members have joined recently - Iona McGhie (of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Mornington) joined us as a local member, having been very supportive of our public events in recent years; Teresa Gu (Student) and David Jenkins (Affiliated member). “

Dr. Margaret Wallace died in Christchurch on 16th September 2024 in her 88th year. A Music Educator and organist, she was a long-time member of the Otago & Southland Association. She had lived and worked in Dunedin for many years before retiring to Christchurch. Although Margaret resided in Christchurch, she retained her membership with our Association and took a keen interest in reading about our many events.

The Future

As with all such organizations as ours that are registered as Incorporated Societies, we are obliged to consult our members for agreement that you wish us to continue as a registered society. If there is agreement at the annual general meeting, the newly elected committee will embark upon re-writing the constitution so it will comply with the legal requirements of the new act. The following motion will be presented as follows:

“Members present at the AGM of The Otago & Southland Organ Association Incorporated, on Friday 28th March 2025, agree to the incoming committee proceeding with working on reregistering our society to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (2022 Act) so as to remain an Incorporated Society.”

In conclusion: I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to our committee for their energy and enthusiasm as they together nurtured the way forward and embraced the challenge of hosting the 2024 Organ Festival. We are endeavouring to build on this initiative. Thank you to Sherry Shelton for developing an active group in Southland and a programme of events in Invercargill, and Bluff. As the President I really appreciate the time and input that Sue contributes through her dual roles as Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you too to the support of our members through what has been a busy year for the committee, even though it may have appeared to have been a quiet year from a member's perspective! The full committee met formally on at least 6 occasions, and there were several subsequent additional informal meetings to keep planning momentum.

Mark Hughes
President

10 March 2025