

Members, supporters and friends of the RSCM Wellington Branch



Mid-year greetings to everyone. I hope this newsletter finds you keeping warm and dry not just at home, but also in church! It is the time of atmospheric, candlelit evensongs, and looking forward to when the church will be filled with the fragrance of spring flowers.

August 2018

Alison Stewart

EVENTS AHEAD IN BRIEF

- An Organists' Training Day led by David Trott and Bruce Cash, 15 September, at St Mary's, Karori.
- A repeat of the Psalm Day in the Manawatu/Whanganui Region led by Rev Alison Stewart, Jenny Hornblow and Roy Tankersley, 22 September. More information to come.
- The Annual Two Day choir school, 1-2 October directed by Michael Stewart. More information to come.

ORGANISTS' TRAINING DAY - 15 SEPTEMBER 2018

WHAT: RSCM ORGANISTS' WORKSHOP
supported by Wellington Organists' Association

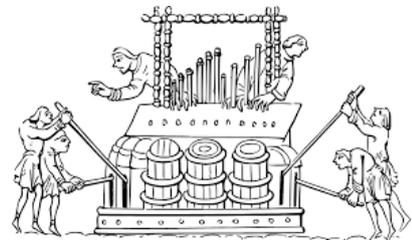
WHERE: St Mary's, Karori and St Ninian's,
Karori, later in the day.

WHEN: Saturday 15th September 2018, 12.30 to 4pm

COST: \$10 including afternoon tea

Two "old hands", David Trott and Bruce Cash, offer tips and help

- Playing for services, from beginning to end – Voluntaries, - Hymns - Anything Else - Closing Voluntary
- Setting the atmosphere beforehand with appropriate music;
- Getting the congregation to sing with the spirit, and with understanding also (and together);
- Everything else that may be played or sung during the service;
- Playing appropriate music as the congregation "go forth into the world" not to mention (well, also mentioning):
- Being in unison with the vicar/priest/minister/pastor;
- AND making the most of the organ in front of you



If there is time at the end, we may finish with a completely informal “organ recital”, so you might like to think of a party piece to bring for that.

First come, first served! To book your place, please contact Jeff Lee leehouse@xtra.co.nz, phone: (04) 388 8804 before 6th September – but the earlier the better, please – numbers may need to be limited.

And let us know specific areas you would particularly like help with (e.g. “effective hymn accompaniment”...); along with a rough idea of your level of experience (e.g. “plenty, but could do with some new ideas”; “beginner”; “pianist pushed onto the organ bench”...)

OBITUARIES

We were very sad to learn of the passing of the following members of the RSCM Wellington Branch. Both men made a huge contribution to the RSCM over the years. They will be missed.

John Garmonsway



It is with sadness we learn of the death (23 May 2018) of a dear friend and long-serving RSCMNZ member, John Henry Garmonsway. He made a remarkable contribution to the work of RSCMNZ in numerous ways including assistance with our National Library of music over many years.

His influence as a friend and supporter went far beyond NZ’s shores and he will be fondly remembered.

His life was celebrated at Wellington’s Cathedral of St Paul on Tuesday 29 May. R.I.P.

Nigel Werry



Obituary from the RSCMNZ page:

It is with sadness we learn that Nigel Werry of Wellington NZ has passed away early May 2018. He served as NZ Secretary for RSCM for numerous years during the 20th Century.

He will be remembered by many senior members as the brilliant organiser of annual Summer Choir Schools. He was also custodian of the RSCM Library at his Khandallah home until its move firstly to St Mark’s and then to its current home in the crypt of Wellington Cathedral of St Paul.

Revd. Alison Pitts, current National Secretary, RSCMNZ, recalls her first Choir School, January 1987, and expects some with longer memories will remember it and earlier ones. It was in Napier with Barry Ferguson as director.

“Nigel was an extremely good organiser and stood for no nonsense. He was also an accomplished organist and choir director. He taught us well, specially about choir behaviour, and processing was one of his “things”. At the 1994 Nelson Choir School, his last before retiring, he had us all processing up the

street from the Girls' College where we were based. Strictly in line with no wiggles or bulges, and always at an arm's length between you and the one in front."

Dave Brookes, now of the Waikato Branch, recalls Nigel had the task of organising the annual RSCM Summer Schools in NZ. This entailed travelling all over NZ, and liaising with Branch Chairpersons in the task of finding suitable venues, including accommodation.

"I have fond memories of Nigel, and his excellent organisational skills. I witnessed them in three Summer Schools I attended. These were in Lower Hutt Wellington 1965, Sacred Heart College, Auckland, and Hamilton 1983. It was always a great pleasure to meet him in these Summer Schools, and share choral music with him in the Summer School choirs.

May he rest in peace."

John Wardle. was Director and Jessica Wilson worked with Nigel in preparation for taking over the reins for the next phase.

Nigel will be fondly remembered. RIP.

THE ANNUAL DINNER



The annual dinner of the Royal School of Church Music (Wellington Branch) was held at The Wellington Club, on Friday 11th May 2018.

Our after-dinner speaker was Dianne Halliday, Director of Music at St Peters on Willis. Dianne spoke about her DMA research into early organ recital programming (1870-1920) and some of the idiosyncrasies of the times. It was interesting hearing about some of the legendary names we associate with early New Zealand music making and the lengths they had to go to in order to produce a constant series of recitals. Thank you, Dianne, for an excellent evening.

PLEASE Do tell us about any church music activities you are planning so that we can spread the word!



COMMUNICATION

Check our Facebook page and take a look at the RSCMNZ website which contains news of national and regional events.



Best wishes,

Alison Stewart

Alison Stewart

Chairman of the Wellington Branch of RSCMNZ (a.stewart@xtra.co.nz)

R S M

New Zealand

