



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

ABN 18 754 002 095

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER, 2019

1.15 p.m.

SYDNEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
(SHORE SCHOOL)

BLUE STREET, NORTH SYDNEY

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A G E N D A

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7th October, 2019

1. Welcome and Opening
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Presentation of the Annual Report for the year 2018/2019
6. Election of - Office Bearers for the Year 2019/2020
 - President
 - Vice Presidents (2)
 - Honorary Secretary (and Public Officer)
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Committee Members (5)
7. The Annual Statement (Associations Incorporation Act)
8. Presentation of Life Membership to Andrew Grahame for his outstanding and dedicated service to the Society over his eighteen years of presentation of “Colours of the King” over Fine Music radio.
9. General Business
10. Close of AGM

MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1.00pm MONDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 2018
SYDNEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL
(SHORE SCHOOL)
BLUE STREET, NORTH SYDNEY

1. President, Dr Greg Cunningham, opened the meeting at approximately 1.00pm, welcoming the recorded twenty-two members and two guests present.
2. This AGM had been interposed between the Sydney Organ Competition 2018 Junior section (at St Aloysius' College) and the SOC 2018 Intermediate section at Shore School. A light lunch had been enjoyed just prior to the meeting.
3. President extended thanks to Shore School and to Robert Fox for facilitating the availability of the school for the meeting.
4. Apologies had been received from Gareth Baard, Bill Fraser, Garry Hoyle, Peter Jewkes, Kerrie Keene and Jenny Long.
5. Confirmation of Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting, as printed with the Annual Report, was moved by Robert Fox, seconded by Gerard Carter and passed.
6. There was no business arising from the Minutes.
7. Members were referred to the Annual Report for the year 2017/2018 and thanks extended to the personnel and organizations who had been involved with various aspects of the Society's operation over the past year. Acceptance of the Annual Report was moved by Godelieve Ghavalas, seconded by Andrew Davidson and passed.
8. Secretary explained, with respect to the election of office bearers for the year 2018/2019, that the number of nominations received was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled for all positions but one and, accordingly, in accordance with the Constitution the persons nominated were taken to be elected, viz.,
 - President – Dr Greg Cunningham
 - Vice Presidents (2) – Godelieve Ghavalas and Peter Jewkes
 - Honorary Secretary (and Public Officer) - Geoff Lloyd
 - Honorary Treasurer – Kerrie Keene
 - Committee Members (5) –
 - Andrew Davidson, Robert Fox, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer.Nominations were called for the vacant committee position but none were received, thus leaving placement to the position to a decision of the committee.
9. It was noted that, in accordance with accepted practice, the elected president would also assume the office of Dean of the Sydney Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, that the elected secretary would also assume the office of Secretary of the Sydney Chapter of the AGO as well as the office of Public Officer under the Associations Incorporation Act.
10. The Financial Statement for the year ended 31st August, 2018 was included in the Annual Report in accordance with the current requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

11. Secretary explained that the Annual Statement (Associations Incorporation Act) would be forwarded together with payment as usual, as required by legislation, to the Office of Fair Trading.
12. The Special Resolution, viz., “That the name of The Organ Music Society of Sydney Inc. be changed to Sydney Organ Society Inc.”, which had been notified to members was discussed with comments from a number of members. However, the motion failed to be moved and seconded and was allowed to lapse.
13. General Business: Rod Blackmore raised the matter of the Wurlitzer organ, originally from the Chatswood Arcadia theatre (1926-1961), which had been installed in the Chatswood Civic Centre auditorium until its demolition in about 2008. Upon the erection of the Concourse auditorium, rebuilding therein of the organ was commenced. Enlargement of the organ (11 to 20 ranks) was introduced. In 2015 Willoughby council decided to close expenditure on the project. Work at this stage was about 75% complete. Rod asked that our committee pursue a course of action to encourage the Council to reconsider their decision and to complete the organ installation.
14. There being no further general business, President thanked members for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 1.30pm.

ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending 31st August 2019

1. OFFICE BEARERS

At the Annual General Meeting held at 1.00pm on Monday, 1st October, 2018
at Sydney Church Of England Grammar School (SHORE School), Blue Street, North Sydney
the members present confirmed the election of the following office bearers:

President – Dr Greg Cunningham
Vice Presidents (2) – Godelieve Ghavalas and Peter Jewkes
Honorary Secretary (and Public Officer) - Geoff Lloyd
Honorary Treasurer – Kerrie Keene
Committee Members (5) – four members, viz.,

Andrew Davidson, Robert Fox, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer were elected, thus leaving a vacancy for another member.
Committee, subsequently, had the pleasure of appointing Justin Ankus to fill the vacancy.

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 REPORT

The focus of the past twelve months for the Organ Music Society of Sydney Incorporated (OMSS) has seen an emphasis on providing opportunities for our young organists to involve themselves in tuition and performance opportunities supported by the Society.

This year, the Society has also recognised the contribution to the organ and the musical life of Sydney and beyond of one of its members, Andrew Grahame, in bestowing life membership of the OMSS on him. Andrew Grahame’s work is recognised in his compiling and presenting “Colours of the King” on the Fine Music radio station for eighteen years.

Andrew Grahame completed his time as compiler and presenter of “Colours of the King” in June. Greg Cunningham compiled the six programs until December, 2019. These are being presented by OMSS member and Fine Music presenter, Peter Bell. We are most grateful to Peter for stepping into the breach until John Hanna commences as compiler and presenter of the program in January, 2020.

The Sydney Organ Competition 2018 was held on the Labour Day Holiday Monday, 1st October. There were three sections: Junior, Intermediate and Open. The Junior section was held at St Aloysius College, Milsons Point. A light

luncheon and our AGM was then held at Shore School, North Sydney, and this was followed by the Intermediate section in Shore Chapel. The Open section (Round Two) took place at The Great Hall, University of Sydney. More details are included in the Education Subcommittee section of this Report.

The OMSS wishes to acknowledge the interest and active contribution of the Friends of the Sydney Town Hall, the Sheppard and Vern-Barnett families, Federation of Music Clubs Australia, Ellen Dyer and the late Betty Roberts in supporting the Sydney Organ Competition prizes. We were saddened to learn of the passing of Betty Roberts in June, 2019.

In supporting young organists, the Society acknowledges our City Organist, Robert Ampt, for his continued encouragement of young organists in making available the Sydney Town Hall Organ for the Young Organists' Day in December. In addition, Sydney University organist, Amy Johansen's exposure of the University of Sydney's Great Hall organ to young people is gratefully recognised.

The OMSS also supported the RSCM International Winter School's "Sydney inSpires", held in our city between 6th to 14th July, 2019 in a number of ways, particularly the organisation and financial underwriting of the organ strand which included two overseas and local organ tutors and saw a number of young organists from across Australia participate. Further details are included in the Education Subcommittee section of this Report.

The annual Sydney Organ Competition for 2019 has been planned for Labour Day, 7th October. This includes the first Preliminary section of the Competition (with three competitors entering this section) to support young players who have recently commenced study of the organ. The Junior and Intermediate sections have drawn eight and six entrants respectively. My thanks go to the Organ Education Sub-committee, particularly Godelieve Ghavalas and Justin Ankus and to Society Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, for their superb organisation of and contribution to this important annual OMSS event. Thank you also to St Aloysius College and Shore School for hosting the competition again in 2019.

Also planned is another opportunity for our young players: the Organ Scholars' Concert featuring Samuel Giddy, Titus Grenyer, Hamish Wagstaff and Callum Knox on Friday 8th November, 2019 at the Carnegie Residence (former First Church of Christ Scientist) in Darlinghurst. Grateful thanks to Robert Fox for co-ordinating this event. Finally, Young Organists' Day where our talented young organists including winners of the Sydney Organ Competition will be invited to perform at the Sydney Town Hall on Saturday 28th December, 2019.

Each member of the OMSS Committee has made an exceptionally important contribution to the activities of the Society.

Peter Meyer as Editor of the Sydney Organ Journal deserves special mention in the way in which the Journal not only showcases the Society's activities, but includes scholarly and informative articles on a range of subjects related to organ building and performance.

I am most grateful, also, to our Membership Secretary, Garry Hoyle, who has patiently dealt with the interface between the OMSS and AGO membership. This is an important international alliance between two organ music organisations and one which strengthens ties in many ways. Some of our joint members attended the 2019 Northeast Regional Convention in Rochester, NY.

Several OMSS/OHTA members will be attending OHTA's 42nd annual conference in South Australia between 30th September and 4th October, 2019.

As I end my tenure as President of the OMSS this year, I wish to add my sincere thanks to the Committee for their unflinching support in extending the work of our Society, particularly through its youth outreach, organ rambles and performance opportunities. Further, thank you to all our members for supporting our activities and in encouraging the love and performance of organ music in and beyond Sydney.

Dr. Greg Cunningham

3. LIFE MEMBERS

The Society has six Life Members, viz.

Keith Asboe, Dr Neil Cameron, Andrew Grahame, Peter Kneeshaw, Howard Pollard and Ron Sharp.

A birthday card was sent to Ron Sharp in recognition of his 90th birthday.

Andrew Grahame is to receive a certificate of life membership at the AGM on 7th October.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to decline, as indicated in the following table. We presently have 283 paid members, predominantly seniors, and 26 complimentary memberships.

Year Ended	31/8/17	31/8/18	31/08/19
Ordinary Members	189	115	111
Pensioners/Seniors	87	149	148
Students	9	11	7
Institutional Subscribers	7	5	5
O/S Journal Subscribers/ Members	13	11	12
Total Members and Subscribers	305	291	283
Complimentary Journals	17	17	18
Overseas Complimentary	9	8	8
Advertisers	3	5	7
Total Mailed Out	334	321	316

Sydney Organ News has replaced the *E-Letter* and is emailed when and if contributions are received. It is appreciated if the material supplied for inclusion is a “poster or flyer”. preferably a JPEG file format as this saves time uploading.

Also, do not forget to notify us of any changes to your email address or, for that matter, any changes to your mail address.

Thank you, too, to members who have included a donation sum in their membership renewals.

Garry Hoyle
Membership Secretary

5. SYDNEY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

For the information of members we repeat in this section the information which was included in the Report of 2018.

A prerequisite to being a member of the Sydney Chapter of The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is to be a member of the Organ Music Society of Sydney (OMSS).

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

The American Guild of Organists has settled into a new system, ONCARD, for renewals which, inter alia, removes the administrative difficulties experienced including with overseas fund transfers, late applications and simultaneous renewal activity.

AGO memberships become due on 1st September of each year. A timely renewal notice should be expected from AGO whereupon membership is effected using their ONCARD payment facility.

If you have a change of address you need to log on to ONCARD and update your personal details.

Any difficulties (if any) with dealing with the AGO system may be referred to our Secretary or Membership Secretary members@omss.org.au.

OMSS does not accept or bill AGO renewals.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statements for 2017/18 and 2018/19

2017/18		2018/19	
<u>Account balances at 1st September, 2017</u>		<u>Account balances at 1st September, 2018</u>	
Community Solutions	\$5,873.98	Community Solutions	\$3,510.15
Cash Reserve	\$21,234.73	Cash Reserve	\$23,511.00
<u>Account balances at 31st August, 2018</u>		<u>Account balances at 31st August, 2019</u>	
Community Solutions	\$3,510.15	Community Solutions	\$3,473.45
Cash Reserve	\$23,511.00	Cash Reserve	\$15,936.01
<u>Overall loss</u>	-\$87.56	<u>Overall loss</u>	-\$7,611.69
<u>Investments:</u>		<u>Investments</u>	
Term Deposit	\$70,000.00	Term Deposit	\$70,000.00
Interest Earned	\$2,135.00	Interest Earned	\$2,135.00
Term Deposit	\$20,000.00	Term Deposit	\$20,000.00
Interest earned	\$500.00	Interest earned	\$470.00
<u>TOTAL INTEREST earned</u>	\$2,769.87	<u>TOTAL INTEREST earned</u>	\$2,698.19
Includes investments and interest on Community Solutions and Cash Reserve account		Includes investments and interest on Community Solutions and Cash Reserve account	

ACCOUNT BALANCE on 30th August, 2019 \$109,409.46

Comprised of:

Community Solution One (cheques and payments) \$3,473.45
 Community Solutions Cash Reserve (interest earned and deposits) \$15,936.01

Westpac Term Deposit \$20,000.00
 (@2.35% for 12 months, matures 13/3/20, interest at maturity)
 Westpac Term Deposit \$70,000.00
 (@3.05% for 36 months, matures 21/3/20, monthly interest)

Education Fund and Organ Competition Fund Balances

- these funds are topped up each year with monies earned as interest

Education Fund and Sydney Organ Competition Fund

Education Fund at 1st September, 2017 \$29,422.98
 Sydney Organ Competition Fund at 1 September 2017 \$42,491.57

Education Fund and Sydney Organ Competition Fund

Education Fund at 1st September, 2018 \$30,422.98
 Sydney Organ Competition Fund at 1 September 2018 \$43,491.57

Education Fund and Sydney Organ Competition Fund

Education Fund at 1st September, 2019 \$31,422.98
 Sydney Organ Competition Fund at 1st September, 2019 \$44,491.57

Total loss 2018/19

Loss of -\$7,611.69

Notes to the financial statement

Purchase of a new computer was \$2,098.95.

Donation to RSCM for SydneyInspires program July, 2019 was \$5,000.00.

Web hosting software was replaced (costs shared 50% with OHTA).

Increases in Sydney Organ Journal layout, publishing and postage costs.

Public liability insurance costs reduced from 2018/19 \$1,234.08 to 2019/20 \$550.00.

Statement by Treasurer for AGM report

In 2017/18, the financial position of the Society remained stable with an overall loss of \$87.56 .

During the financial year 2018/19 the financial position of the Society changed considerably with an overall loss of -\$7,611.69

This loss is explained by the Committee's decision to donate \$5,000 to the RSCM Winter SydneyInspires program in lieu of running a Sydney Organ Academy in 2019 and the need for the Society computer used by the Sydney Organ Journal editor to be replaced at a cost of \$2,098.95

I wish to thank Garry Hoyle for his ongoing support with reducing Society costs in all areas, including investigating and finding a lower cost public liability insurance cover.

I wish to extend my thanks to Geoffrey Lloyd for stepping in and managing the accounts during my absence from June, 2018 to February, 2019 due to the passing of my mother.

I extend my thanks to all members of the committee for their ongoing support of me in the role of treasurer.

*K. Keene
Hon. Treasurer
31st August 2019*

7. THE SYDNEY ORGAN JOURNAL

The publication in September of Volume 50, Number 4 of the Sydney Organ Journal completes fifty years of publishing the Society's re-launched journal. Edited by Neil Cameron the Journal had first appeared in November, 1962, was superseded by the Australian Organ Quarterly in 1967 and, after the Quarterly's demise, relaunched in January, 1970. It has had but five editors these fifty years: Bernard Thompson, Michael Edgeloe, Ralph Lane, Geoff Bock and myself. Half a century's continuity is a good record for a boutique publication and so it may be fair to assume that the Journal is of real interest to members and meets their needs and expectations to a satisfactory extent. It serves as one of the chief links connecting the members of the organ community of Sydney, NSW and beyond.

By a nice coincidence fifty Society members contributed articles, letters, photographs, translations and reviews to Volume 50. These contributions may well be the principal reason for the Journal's continuing success. There is room for more contributors but members see it as relevant and the effort of contributing worthwhile. There would be no Journal without them. Thanks are due to all contributors and especially Associate Editor Robert Parkinson, Reviews Editor Peter Jewkes and Membership Secretary Garry Hoyle for his expert assistance in identifying new printers when needed. It is fortunate that after many years Michael Ritchie continues designing the pages as our highly skilled graphic artist. I am grateful for the support of our regular advertisers: Jim Clinch (All Organs), Craig Douglas (Bernies Music Land), Georges Trépanier (Orgues Létourneau) and Tim Gilley, organ pipe maker. The members of the OMSS Committee have given the Editor unwavering support and encouragement. Thanks to all these and others he has now completed eleven years in a role he finds creative and satisfying.

*Peter Meyer
Editor: the Sydney Organ Journal*

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

Society Web Site

Over the past year, a number of the organ pages has been updated as new information and photos have become available (eg. Picton, Hurstville Presbyterian). These pages always receive the most 'hits' on our site. The Society's concert diary is regularly updated and certainly contains details of all Society events but there has been a large drop in the number of organ recitals being held in Sydney this past year. With the cessation of recitals at St Andrew's Cathedral and the disappearance of the regularly monthly recitals at St Mary's and the suspension of recitals at Christ Church St Laurence while the building has undergone restoration work, this only leaves the regular recitals at the University of Sydney, Sydney Town Hall and St Stephen's, Macquarie St plus the occasional suburban recital and student recitals at the Conservatorium. There has been a growing trend of not advertising recitals and then the organisers wonder why there is no audience. Several recitals are only advertised a couple of days, even a couple of hours, before they start, on social media instead of on our web site and in our journal as was always the case.

The Society has recently updated the web site software as the previous software (dating from 2012) will no longer work once the next computer operating system is released.

Society Library

The Society's Library is housed at St Stephen's, Macquarie St. It does get used by my students and the church's organ scholar as well as myself, but I rarely get enquiries from outside these days as most people refer to IMSLP where they can obtain virtually anything that is not currently under copyright. With no database listing what is available, it is just a matter of looking through the music which is sorted alphabetically by composer, where possible.

*Mark Quarmby
Webmaster*

9. EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Sydney Organ Competition 2018

Special thanks must go to those who help us with venues and access: Amy Johanssen for the Great Hall, Sydney University, Peter Kneeshaw for St Aloysius College and Robert Fox for Shore School. We are also most grateful to the universities and schools who gladly let the society make free use of their hall, chapels and pipe organs.

Ten entrants competed at St Aloysius College for the Junior section with the winner being Alec Fan.

Six entrants competed at Shore School for the Intermediate section with the winner being Emily Thompson.

The Open section had six entries. Sarah Kim, Thomas Ospital and Daniel Moulton were the adjudicators for the first round. The finalists were Tyler Boehmer, Jonathon Lee and Samuel Giddy, with Samuel winning the section.

We continue to enjoy the support with donor awards – totalling a value of \$7,700 - Friends of the Sydney Town Hall prizes, Michael Dyer Award, Ron Roberts Prize, the Doris and George Vern-Barnett Prize, the Vincent Sheppard Memorial Prize, the John Brown Memorial Award, the Jessie Lyle Marsh Award and the Australia Prize.

Teachers are to be highly commended for their commitment to their students – Peter Kneeshaw, Jennifer Chou, Min Jung Cha, Robert Wagner, Robert Ampt, David Clark, Philip Swanton, Dr James Higdon, Christopher Wrench, James Tibbles and Christopher Cook.

Much preparation goes into organising the smooth running of competition with thanks to the Education Sub-Committee – Godelieve Ghavalas (Chair), Gregory Cunningham and Robert Fox. Geoff Lloyd also puts in a huge effort regarding donors and trophies and on the day of the competition many of the Committee help to make the event something to put on the world-wide events for organ.

The adjudicators were Simon Nieminski and Peter Guy.

Young Organists Day at Sydney Town Hall

Young organists played for this event with Robert Ampt at the helm.

CDs recorded by Greg Ghavalas at the Organ Competitions were sent to Robert for auditioning those who were to play. This event always has a very large audience and it is a unique and wonderful experience for them. Rehearsals are scheduled the day before and again we must thank our teachers who make themselves available during the holiday period to tutor their students to perform their best on this grand instrument.

Organ InSpires

Held in July, 2019 as a subsection of Sydney InSpires, which was run by the RSCM's NSW Branch, this course was in great need of help to get it going. As Godelieve Ghavalas had been at the helm of organising OMSS Organ Academies her services, time and organisational skills were put to the test. Heather Moen-Boyd teamed up with Godelieve to make the event an excellent ten days of workshops, masterclasses, private tuition and more, led by none other than Thomas Ospital and Anne Marsden Thomas.

OMSS donated \$5,000 towards running costs.

The Wednesday morning also included an OMSS organ ramble to Manly. As this was meant to be a “free morning” for all at the conference the relaxing ferry to and from Manly got in a little leisure time.

The Spring, 2019 issue of Sydney Organ Journal covers most of the events held that week.

*Godelieve Ghavalas
Chair: Education Subcommittee*

11. RADIO BROADCASTS

Broadcasting of organ music continues on Fine Music 102.5 FM. Developments following on from Andrew Grahame's retirement after eighteen years of presenting the Society's monthly programme "Colours of the King" have been mentioned in the President's Report section.

Andrew is now a life member of OMSS and we wish him well with many thanks for his years of service.

We do remind you that "Colours of the King" is streamed live to the internet from finemusicfm.com as well as being broadcast on Fine Music 102.5 FM.

12. FUNCTIONS

Reports on some functions are included in reports in other sections of this Report. However, there were some other functions which are mentioned here.

On Easter Monday, 22nd April we were welcomed to a Ramble/ Player's Day at St Mark's Anglican Church, Picton. Some fifty-seven attendees, twenty-three of whom were OMSS members. A well-enjoyed visit to hear and play the newly-installed organ.

A well-attended (over fifty) visit to St Gile's Presbyterian Church at Hurstville on Queens Birthday Holiday Monday, 10th June. Another enjoyable visit to a new organ.

Thomas Trotter Masterclass at Shore School on Tuesday, 10th September. Followed by a recital.

13. DEPUTY ORGANISTS

Andrew Davidson continues to maintain the Register of Deputy Organists. Participants (currently few and far between) are always welcome. Andrew's contacts are by mobile 0414 385 311 or email <andav046@gmail>. Thank you, Andrew.

14. CONCLUSION

Thank you to President Dr Greg Cunningham for his leadership over the past five years. Welcome to our new President and thanks to all members for supporting the work of the Committee. We hope we are achieving the objectives.

WE DO NEED COMMITTEE MEMBERS – WHAT ABOUT YOU OFFERING TO HELP

The Committee